



IN TODAY'S REVIEW



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for love

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takes New York

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Blair to give up right to select peers

TONY BLAIR is to surrender his power to appoint members of the House of Lords in an attempt to head off Tory claims that he will pack the second chamber with "Tory cronies". The Prime Minister also plans to impose a limit on the number of peers representing each party. Although Labour may enjoy parity with the Conservatives after hereditary peers are abolished, it will not hand itself the huge majority in the Upper House now enjoyed by the Tories as a result of their 300 hereditary peers.

Mr Blair will give up the Prime Minister's historic right to select peers by accepting a recommendation to be made next month by the Neill committee on standards in public life. It will propose that people nominated for peerages should be vetted and approved by an independent watchdog.

The body could block nominees if it judged they had a shady business background or were too close to a political party after donating money to it. Downing Street is also considering a plan for peers to be nominated by an all-party commission rather than by party leaders, as at present.

Mr Blair's concessions are aimed at allaying Conservative fears before a full-scale constitutional battle with Tory peers over the Bill to reform the Upper House.

The Tories are threatening to lay siege to the Bill and have warned that unless Mr Blair makes clear how he intends to carry through the second stage of Lords reform, they will ignore

BY ANDREW GRICE
AND COLIN BROWN

convention and block the measure by using their majority in the Lords, overriding the wishes of the Commons.

Sources in the Lords said they expect the Government will have to invoke the Parliament Act to get the Lords reform Bill on to the statute book. That could involve a delay of 12 months, bringing it dangerously close to the general election in 2002.

Mr Blair's new safeguards will be included in a government document, to be published before Christmas, which will set out its options for further, wide-ranging reform of the Lords including an elected element to be enacted after the next general election.

A cabinet committee chaired by Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor, will meet later this month to start drawing up the "options paper". It will include a plan for two-thirds of the Lords to be elected and one-third appointed, and will call for a Royal Commission or an all-party committee on the make-up and powers of the new Lords.

One minister said yesterday: "As well as abolishing hereditary peers, we are determined to show we are serious about setting up a process to decide our long-term reforms."

The move reflects growing concern among ministers that Mr Blair is vulnerable to the charge of turning the Lords into a "Labour quango" after the hereditary peers lose their

rights in the first stage of his reforms.

Mr Blair has already provoked Tory claims he has rewarded several of "cronies" by appointing life peers who have given money to the Labour Party. They include Lord Sainsbury, former chairman of the supermarket chain, Lord Braggi, the broadcaster, and Lord Fulk, the film director.

Ministers have also been stung by Tory claims that Labour may never proceed with stage two of its Lords changes because of fears that it might prove harder to get its legislation through a partly elected second chamber.

The Government has decided to introduce the Bill in the Commons, where it will win a huge majority, to reinforce the pressure on the Lords to bow to the views of the elected House.

Lord Strathclyde, the Opposition chief whip in the Lords, has warned that the Government would face "sustained resistance" if it tried to force through a Bill banning hereditaries.

A government source said last night: "There is no doubt the Tories are upping the ante. But we are ready for a battle and we will call their bluff. Do they really want to die in the ditch to preserve the rights of hereditary peers?"

At present, the Tories have a total of 474 peers, of whom 300 are hereditaries. Labour has 175, including 17 hereditaries. There are 325 crossbenchers (independents), 200 of whom are hereditaries, and 70 Liberal Democrats (24 hereditaries).

Off with her head, says Europe



Bank chiefs have ruled that an image of the Queen, seen here in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, would not appear on Britain's euro notes. Reuters

... but one still has one's uses

A DECISION by European Central Bank chiefs to prevent the Queen's head appearing on euro notes if Britain joins the single currency prompted a political row last night.

The decision overturns the wishes of European Union governments to keep a space for national symbols on the notes, as a link with the past. The Tories said the decision, announced by the bank's head Wim Duisenberg, would turn more Britons against the single currency. William Hague, party leader, said the announcement was "a warn-

BY KATHERINE BUTLER
AND DAREUS SANAI

ing signal to the British people". The Queen's head on the currency was a "powerful symbol of our independence and our ability to make decisions in our own national interest". Ministers blamed the previous Tory government for failing to ensure that informal assurances that the Queen's head would stay on notes were written into the Maastricht Treaty.

The Queen herself is on tour in Malaysia; she spent yesterday touring shops in down-



town Kuala Lumpur and meeting local children. To the delight of one schoolboy, she autographed a football emblazoned with the logo of Manchester United, something

unlikely to endear her to the throngs of United-haters back home.

The Treasury said the Government had "reserved Britain's position" over its right to include the Queen's head on notes issued in this country, but conceded the final decision was a matter for the new bank.

Mr Duisenberg told Euro MPs the bank had overruled the wishes of governments and decided "there will be no national feature on the euro banknotes". In contrast with euro coins, which countries will be able to mint according to their own designs.

Fears about fraud and confusion among users are believed to have been the reasons for the decision. Euro notes will instead feature pictures of the continent's architecture on one side and the European flag on the other. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will urge the bank to think again on the grounds that it has a duty to take account of the views of member states. Ministers were surprised by its decision, which could make it harder for them to win a referendum on the issue of British entry into the single currency.

Clinton approval leaps six points

THE WHITE House is planning a new offensive to put President Bill Clinton's case against impeachment, as evidence mounts that the broadcast of his videotaped testimony to Kenneth Starr's inquiry may have done him some good.

An opinion poll for CNN/USA Today by Gallup showed that his approval rating has risen to 66 per cent after Monday's broadcast, six points higher than it was on Sunday, with the same percentage opposing impeachment. Most people believe that he definitely or probably lied, but those favour-

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

ing impeachment fell from 35 per cent to 32 per cent. A poll for ABC News showed 70 per cent supported the President's reluctance to discuss his private life, and 59 per cent thought that prosecutors were wrong to ask the questions that they did.

The US press gave Mr Clinton a slightly softer ride yesterday. This was "an ordinary lie he had concocted to hide an ordinary affair," said the New

York Times. "The four-hour tape of his August 17 grand jury testimony will not destroy Mr Clinton straightaway, and as an exercise in boiler-plate, it may help him."

Part of the problem for those who want the President removed from office was that the videotape had been vastly oversold by those who had seen it. It was far from being the conclusive proof that he had lost control, and the President appeared, for the most part, dignified and direct.

The White House is making new moves to take control of the

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The e-mails, page 3
Suzanne Moore, Review front

situation, including telephoning Congressional Democrats to ask them to press for some lesser punishment than impeachment. Democrats have previously suggested that Congressional censure, rather than

impeachment, though there is no sign so far that Republicans are prepared to take this up. The White House is also said to be "actively considering" the appearance of the President at the House Judiciary Committee, a step that has been urged by Republicans and Democrats alike.

Asked whether the affair had hit bottom yesterday, Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman, said: "It's been stuck at the bottom for quite some time."

Reports that Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State,

was on the point of resignation yesterday were denied by the White House, but with some hesitation. "I don't have any reason to believe that's true," said Mr McCurry. Ms Albright had been one of those who vociferously backed the President after a January Cabinet meeting, when he had told them none of the allegations were true.

The President has tried to maintain a detached air about all the proceedings. "Believe it or not, I haven't read the report or my lawyers' replies," he said yesterday in New York.

McKellen 'may not act in London again'

BY IAN MCKELLEN may never act in London again.

Yesterday, one of Britain's finest and best-known classical actors said he was disillusioned with London audiences. He questioned whether some people who came to the National Theatre could even speak English and said he was going to act in Leeds where the council had "old socialist principles".

Sir Ian, who has been a key figure at the National Theatre for two decades, will spend the next seven months acting at the West Yorkshire Playhouse in

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

Leeds, where he will appear in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, Noel Coward's *Present Laughter* and *The Seagull* by Chekhov, as part of that theatre's repertory company under the director Jude Kelly.

He said yesterday: "Who are you playing to at the Olivier Theatre [the National's largest auditorium]? Do they speak the language? Last night at *Oleanna* there wasn't a black face in the audience. That's an

odd thing in this city and at this time.

"I'm going back to rep with local audiences and a community of actors."

"These shows will be for the people of Leeds and we won't be bringing them to London. And I'm very happy. My best work has been in small theatres where audiences are close to you. I've made a vow never to work in a theatre which forces me to betray the soul of acting."

In an interview with *The Independent* after the West Yorkshire Playhouse season

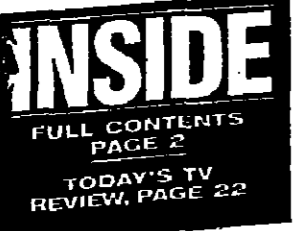
launch, Sir Ian said: "In London you don't know where the audiences live or where they are coming from. In Leeds or Bristol or Bolton or Glasgow the audience look on that theatre as theirs and you're a visitor welcomed into the life of the city."

"If you stay there six months you become a local resident. This may sound sentimental but it's heartfelt. Leeds is run by old socialist principles. There is free opera and ballet in the park and a wonderful community theatre."

The negative side is that

you're not paid much money. I'm going to be out of pocket so it couldn't be a permanent way of life. But I think it is possible I may not be seen on the London stage again."

Sir Ian said the most enjoyable experience of acting was in rep where the same company of actors appear in several plays. "At the National Theatre last year," he added, "I was in *Peter Pan* and *Ibsen's Enemy of the People*. There were 171 actors and only one of them was in more than two plays. So it's not a company."



HOME

The Labour leadership has dethroned 11 left-wing members of the European Parliament

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FOREIGN

The German election moves to a photo-finish as Chancellor Kohl's call for stability draws in voters

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BUSINESS

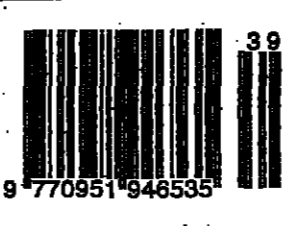
Barclays Bank is cutting 1,100 jobs at Barclaycard to improve efficiency in the face of competition

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SPORT

Ralf Schumacher and Alex Zanardi are to drive for the Williams Formula One team next season

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Those e-mails: evidence that charts the affair between Bill and Monica

From: Lewinsky, Monica
To: Catherine Davis
Subject: Bill Clinton

Hi, cat. I'm glad you liked my story. I had a great time at the spa. I did it with the nutrition guy. I had a great time at the spa. I did it with the nutrition guy. I had a great time at the spa. I did it with the nutrition guy.

June 17: Monica to her friend Catherine Davis: 'I did it with the nutrition guy. Saw 'Big Creep' wearing a tie she had bought

CA Davis

From: CA Davis
To: Monica
Subject: Bill Clinton

I'm worried about you, Monica. Again, I think your idea to leave the area or get out of govt work is a good one. I think you are in the midst of a dangerous, psychologically, situation. I am at a loss as to what you need later or now. I could possibly do either. When I read your e-mails sometimes I cannot even believe what you are doing to me. It all sounds so dramatic and painful for you. In your trip to L.A. for holiday or work? Maybe, you'll find a little better.

July 3: Catherine thinks Monica should leave town. She is in the 'midst of a dangerous, psychologically, situation'

CA Davis

From: Lewinsky, Monica
To: Catherine Davis
Subject: Bill Clinton

Well, Catherine, my dear, I'm glad you liked my story. I had a great time at the spa. I did it with the nutrition guy. I had a great time at the spa. I did it with the nutrition guy. I had a great time at the spa. I did it with the nutrition guy.

August 14: Monica to Catherine: 'She had sex with Thomas last week. I know I am soooooo naughty'

From: Lewinsky, Monica
To: Catherine Davis
Subject: Bill Clinton

So it's over. I don't know what I'll do now but I can't wait any more and I can't go through all of this crap anymore. In some ways I hope I never hear from him again. I don't want to hear from him again. I don't want to hear from him again. I don't want to hear from him again.

September 4: Monica to Catherine. She realises it is all over. 'I can't go through all this crap. I hope I never hear from him again'

From: CA Davis
To: Monica
Subject: Bill Clinton

So it's over. I don't know what I'll do now but I can't wait any more and I can't go through all of this crap anymore. In some ways I hope I never hear from him again. I don't want to hear from him again. I don't want to hear from him again. I don't want to hear from him again.

September 5: Catherine to Monica. 'I hope he does not call you anymore. He does not have the balls to tell you straight how it is - kind of similar to the way he is as P'

From: Lewinsky, Monica
To: Catherine Davis
Subject: Bill Clinton

So it's over. I don't know what I'll do now but I can't wait any more and I can't go through all of this crap anymore. In some ways I hope I never hear from him again. I don't want to hear from him again. I don't want to hear from him again. I don't want to hear from him again.

November 6: Monica to Catherine. 'Job prospects are looking good. I can't get him out of my heart. I love him a lot'

IT IS THE most densely documented relationship in history - every gift, thought, word and deed spelled out in excruciating detail. Monica Lewinsky's affair with the President - from the first stirrings of lust, through love, a sense of betrayal and the catastrophic end - is set out in black and white in the 3,000 pages of documentation that accompany the Starr report. In

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

testimony that was given to the investigators and in her own words.

The electronic mail messages that she exchanged with her friend Catherine Davis show every detail of her mood swings, as she discusses the end of the relationship, her job prospects, the shopping trips in

London, Tokyo and Washington, high politics, and low gossip, in one apparently unstoppable narrative of her life.

Ms Lewinsky is, as the Starr report and President Clinton alike remarked, a compulsive teller: and the Internet and e-mail proved the perfect medium, just as they were the chosen carriers for the Starr report to be delivered instantaneously to the world.

All of these messages took place after the relationship ended, though sometimes she seems to believe that it will carry on.

The last "intimate contact" that she had with the President was in March 1997, but she continued to miss him; and she continued to be deeply enmeshed with the White House, searching for a job in the White House, and then elsewhere with the

help of the President's friend and close adviser, the fixer lawyer Vernon Jordan.

In June, she wrote to Ms Davis about another liaison, with a "nutrition guy", with whom she "did it" at a spa resort. "Yeah! Now I can start the count again," she says.

But her life is "not so great". She is desperately trying to get back into the White House, but every communication is meet-

ing with no luck. The "big creep" is wearing one of the many ties which she gave him, but it is scant consolation. "I think I'm just going to have to walk away from it all," she confides.

Ms Davis is sympathetic, especially about her treatment at the hands of "Marsha" at the White House, who seems intent on stopping her return. In September, she writes

again of her efforts to get back into the White House, to be close to Mr Clinton, and the ways that these efforts have been rebuffed.

By now, however, she is apparently aware that things will not get any further. "So it's over," she says. "In some ways I hope I'll never hear from him again."

In November, she meets Vernon Jordan to discuss jobs,

and she is deeply impressed with him, his sincerity and warmth, but also his seriousness about finding a job.

Unlike the others, he is both the President's friend and, it appears, hers. But her contacts with him, with Catherine Davis, with everybody have, by then, ceased to be just personal: they are crucial exhibits that will be used against her and the man she loved.

Lawyers seek punishment to fit a lapsed president

WITH THE airing of President Bill Clinton's videotaped testimony producing no new clamour for his removal, White House officials and lawyers were reported to be searching for an arrangement with the United States Congress that would satisfy the popular demand for punishment, yet allow him to serve out his term.

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

ident were far from over and that additional damaging documents were to come.

The White House was said to be seriously considering a suggestion that Mr Clinton go in person to Capitol Hill to testify to the House Judiciary committee - the committee that had threatened his presidency by voting to release the tape of his testimony, the committee that

must consider the evidence for impeachment. Whether this would forestall moves towards impeachment hearings, however, was doubted.

The proposal that Mr Clinton - whose relations even with Congressional Democrats have never been warm - should appear before the judiciary committee had first been made by Senator John Kerry, a Massachusetts Democrat, shortly before the videotape was aired. But it was alluded to repeatedly

by both Democrats and Republicans, yesterday as the committee reconvened.

Among fervent Clinton supporters, however, there was a feeling that any appearance by the President before the judiciary committee should be agreed only as part of a deal that would end Mr Starr's investigation, and avert the threat of impeachment proceedings.

The former Senator and presidential candidate, Robert Dole, told a cable television

phone-in programme that he had heard the White House was planning some "bold move".

"Obviously the President's reaching out, he'd like to find some way to end this," Mr Dole said, but he doubted whether this, by itself, would resolve Mr Clinton's difficulties. He predicted that Congress will move ahead, "maybe some time next week or the following week and vote on whether to proceed with an impeachment inquiry". That vote could come as

early as next week. According to Mr Dole, any "deal" would be most likely to be agreed between then and February, when a new Congress reconvenes after the mid-term elections.

The retiring Senator and constitutional historian, Daniel Pat Moynihan, has said Congress could dispatch the whole process - from the decision on an impeachment inquiry through to a vote in the Senate Judiciary committee - within six weeks, but there are few who

believe this timetable to be feasible or likely.

The shift of attention from the precariousness of the President's position to the possibility of a deal was one clear result of Mr Clinton's broadcast testimony and the flood of more details about his relationship with the former White House trainee, Monica Lewinsky.

Almost immediately the broadcast was over on Monday afternoon, a perceptible shift could be observed in the tenor

of "insider" comment from the big political arena to the small print of judicial process.

The criticism that had questioned Mr Clinton's credibility and argued that he could not remain in office was replaced by debate about whether there was sufficient evidence to support charges of perjury and abuse of power, as set out by Mr Starr in his report, which also said that Mr Clinton lied under oath "three times" during the grand jury testimony.

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Charles I's shirt is really lady's nightie

THE GARMENT thought to be the shirt in which Charles I was executed, and now on display at Windsor Castle, is probably a woman's night dress.

The discovery that one of the great icons of British costume and British royal history never belonged to King Charles at all, let alone ascended the scaffold with him, was made all of eight years ago by costume experts at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

But officials at Windsor Castle in effect hushed it up. The shirt is still in a display case in the royal library and the Queen regularly takes private guests into the room to see it. It is understood that the Queen has never been told the shirt is likely to be a fake.

Members of the Queen's staff are not allowed to be quoted by name, but one said: "I was here when the V and A costume experts said it was a lady's nightie and I turned a deaf ear to it. I am retaining my faith and belief in it. I still tell people this is the shirt that Charles I wore to his execution."

Another said: "Frankly, I suspect that it wasn't King Charles's shirt and the stains that look like blood are probably due to excessive ironing. But I don't believe in dismantling legends."

The shirt, acquired by Windsor Castle in 1911, is in a

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

display case on which are written the words "Shirt Worn by King Charles I at His Execution. Lined. Shirt with Drawn Threadwork Borders. 17th Century."

Below is a description: "This shirt traditionally held to be the second or over-shirt worn by King Charles I on the day of his execution (30 January 1649)." Sir Thomas Herbert, Gentleman of the Bedchamber to the King in his last two years, wrote in his memoirs of the King's request: "Let me have a shirt on more than ordinary by reason the season is so sharp as probably may make me shake, which some Observers will imagine proceeds from fear. I will have no such Imputation. I fear not death!"

Significantly, the shirt is not being included in an exhibition in the Queen's Gallery in Buckingham Palace next January to mark the 350th anniversary of the execution. The exhibition will include paintings, prints and drawings of Charles.

One of the curators said that officially the shirt was not included because the exhibition was about portraits, but agreed that doubts about its provenance were also a problem.

Leading article, page 3



The disputed garment thought to be King Charles' shirt

Nils Jorgensen/Ret

Labour NEC deselects 11 of its MEPs

TONY BLAIR was accused of "purging" another group of his internal party critics last night after 11 members of the European Parliament were effectively deselected by the Labour leadership.

The 11 MEPs were given places so low in Labour's "pecking order" that they stand little chance of retaining their seats in next June's elections to the Strasbourg parliament.

Under the system of proportional representation to be used in Britain for the first time, people will be able to vote only for a party rather than for individual candidates. So the parties' rankings in each region will play a critical role in deciding who wins.

Labour officials expect the 62 seats they won in the last Euro elections to be reduced to about 40 because of the introduction of PR, with the Tories and Liberal Democrats making gains.

But what outraged left-wingers was the order of candidates approved by Labour's National Executive Committee (NEC) yesterday after would-be MEPs were interviewed by regional panels at the weekend.

Loyalists have been parachuted in over the heads of 11 sitting MEPs, who find themselves dropped so far down

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

the "batting order" that they face an almost impossible struggle to hold their seats.

The new faces who stand a strong chance of winning include Michael Cashman, the actor and gay rights campaigner, who also hopes to be elected to the NEC next week, and Claude Moraes, director of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants.

In contrast, Michael Elliott, MEP for London West, was placed last on the party's slate in the capital, below four new candidates.

The other sitting Labour MEPs who were demoted were: Hugh McMahon (Strathclyde West); Alex Smith (South of Scotland); Gordon Adam (Northumbria); Christine Oddy (Coventry and North Warwickshire); David Hallam (Herefordshire and Shropshire); Mike Tappin (Staffordshire West and Congleton); Shaun Spiers (London South East); Carol Tongue (London East); Richard Balfe (London South Inner) and Robert Evans (London North West).

Diane Abbott, a member of the NEC, said: "There will be a suspicion that people have been pushed to the bottom of

the list for political reasons rather than for their contribution in the past."

Ken Coates, a left-wing MEP expelled by Labour in January, said: "This is political assassination by Millbank [Labour's headquarters] which was planned on Peter Mandelson's kitchen table."

Mr Blair's critics saw the list as a move to crack down on one of the last remaining bastions of "old Labour". The Prime Minister was furious when left-wing MEPs publicly attacked his plan to ditch Clause 4 in 1985 and heckled him when he addressed their group.

Labour officials said the selection process took account of what candidates could bring to the European Parliament and their knowledge of Europe. "It is based on getting the best candidates, not their political views," said a party spokesman.

Tom Sawyer, Labour's general secretary, said the candidates would reflect "real Britain" and was pleased that 34 women and six black people would be among the party's 84 candidates.

Mr Blair showed his determination to act against allegations of sleaze when the NEC yesterday suspended five members of the Slough constituency party from holding party office.

Ease strict monetary policy Left tell Blair

BY ANDREW GRICE and
BARRIE CLEMENT

TONY BLAIR came under strong pressure to make a U-turn on economic policy at a meeting of Labour's National Executive Committee, yesterday. The Prime Minister will also be urged to throw his weight behind calls for a cut in interest rates at next week's party conference. As job losses mount, emergency motions have flooded in from Labour's industrial heartlands urging action to lower the value of sterling.

At yesterday's national executive left-wingers Dennis Skinner, Ken Livingstone and Diane Abbott, demanded that strict monetary policies be eased and warned the Prime Minister that Labour would pay a high price for handing control of interest rates to the

Bank of England. They predicted big job losses in the party's strongholds. In a heated debate Mr Blair strongly defended his economic policy and was adamant that he would not change course. He insisted that the Government "had to see it through" in order to avoid "a return to the days of boom and bust".

Calls for intervention from the constituencies will be reinforced on the eve of conference by the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, Science, Finance Union which will reaffirm their belief that the economy needs a boost.

While at the TUC last week the Prime Minister indicated privately his view that interest rates should come down, Labour Party delegates will be looking for a strong hint in public.

Ken Jackson, leader of the engineering union, said the message from the TUC was loud and clear that interest rates should be cut to avert a "manufacturing slump". "Communities most affected by recession are rooted in Labour's heartlands. We cannot afford to forget those communities that need our help most and need it now," he said.

Roger Lyons, leader of MSF, said Tony Blair's idea that co-ordinated action at international level was something which should be prosecuted with urgency.

400 more soldiers pull out of Ulster

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Northern Ireland Correspondent

THE AUTHORITIES in Northern Ireland yesterday announced a further relaxation of security measures, easing back on the use of the army in the light of reduced violence since last month's Omagh bombing.

Up to 400 troops are to be shipped out of the province while routine army patrolling will be ended in the south Londonderry area from the weekend. The police and army are also to review the disposition of Northern Ireland's numerous military bases.

Meanwhile, police in both Northern Ireland and the Republic yesterday continued to question 12 people about the Omagh bombing. Six were arrested on each side of the border on Monday in a combined operation aimed at breaking up the Real IRA which planted the bomb.

The Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Ronnie Flanagan, said the troop reductions were being made as a result of a review of the security situation. He said he was pleased to announce that an "improving security situation" allowed police to operate with a reduced military presence.

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mo Mowlam, said: "It's a process of normalisation which was part of the Good Friday agreement."

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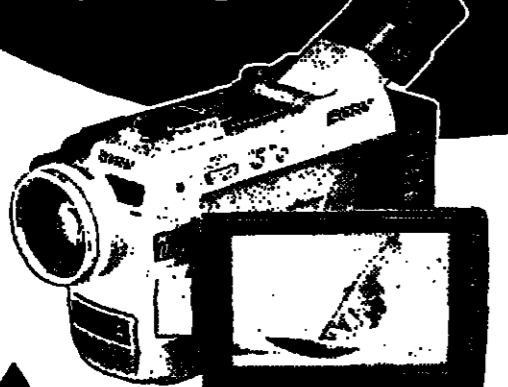
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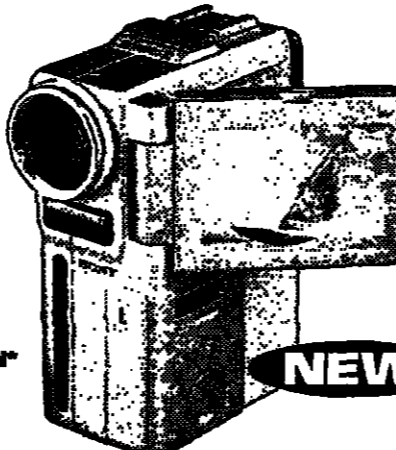
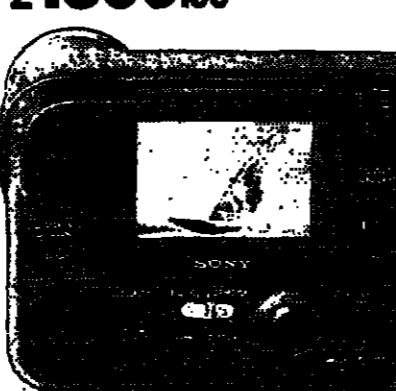
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سبتمبر 23 1998

Education: A state school says that inspectors misjudged them, while the private sector claims record support

Council issues challenge to Ofsted report

A LOCAL authority is challenging publicly the verdict of school inspectors that an inner-city primary is failing.

In a highly unusual move, Professor Tim Brighouse, Birmingham's chief education officer, has issued a statement saying that inspectors from the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) were wrong to fail Christ Church primary school just after it had achieved "phenomenal" national test results.

The school has appealed to Ofsted, alleging that the inspectors were "intimidating".

Just over a year ago, inspectors found that the school, where more than two-thirds have free school meals and a similar proportion speak English as a second language, had "significant weaknesses". After a second two-and-a-half-day visit by different inspectors this June, the 231-pupil school was told it was failing. Six weeks later, however, Brenda Hyde, the head, received this year's national test results.

They were, says Professor Brighouse, "phenomenal". In English, 59 per cent of children reached the expected level, compared with 28 per cent in the previous year. In mathematics the figure was 66 per cent compared with 31 per cent and in science 69 per cent compared with 14 per cent.

Professor Brighouse also sent in his own local education authority advisers whose view was the same as that of the first set of inspectors - the school had weaknesses, particularly in planning and marking pupils' work, but it was definitely not failing.

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor



Professor Tim Brighouse: 'Inspectors were wrong'

work, but it was definitely not failing.

Heads and local authorities have been reluctant to challenge Ofsted decisions but Professor Brighouse said: "The acid test of a school is 'would you send your own children there?' - in this case, I would have no hesitation. There are occasions when you think Ofsted and HMI have got it a bit wrong - this is one of those occasions. Indeed, they have it more than a bit wrong."

Professor Brighouse's challenge comes after a furore over the reappointment of Chris Woodhead, who leads Ofsted. Mr Woodhead and Professor Brighouse, who are joint vice-chairmen of the Government's Standards Task Force, have clashed before over Ofsted's report on the local authority.

Ms Hyde said: "I was told after the inspectors had been in the school for only a day that it was likely to fail. Last year, a team came in who said that most of the teaching was satisfactory or better. Now it is unsatisfactory. Does that mean another team can come in and find that it's completely different?"

Only two of the 10 teachers at the 231-pupil school had changed and one of the new teachers had just received a good Ofsted report at his previous school. The other, Ms Hyde said, was not observed.

The school has been told that it cannot challenge the decision. However, the Rev Simon Holloway, vice-chair of the governors, said: "The governors agreed to appeal over the way the inspection was carried out. It was intimidating and demoralising if the same thing is happening in other schools we believe that if one school challenges the system this may stop the rot. The previous inspection was a positive experience."

A spokeswoman for Ofsted said that a reply to part of the school's letter had been sent and another letter would be sent about the rest. "Inspection is about more than just test results for a particular year," she added.

The inspectors' report showed that the quality of teaching was satisfactory or better in only half the lessons. For the juniors, under one-third of lessons were satisfactory.

The only way the school could overturn the inspectors' judgement would be by going for a judicial review, she said.



Pupils answering questions in an English class at Christ Church primary school in Sparkbrook, Birmingham, which inspectors said was failing. Andrew Fox

More parents back independents

BY JUDITH JUDD

A RECORD number of parents would send their children to an independent school if they could afford it, according to a poll published yesterday.

Even among Labour voters, support is growing for fee-paying schools and backing for state subsidies to help children from low-income families attend them. Around 55 per cent of parents questioned in the Mori poll said they would prefer private education, up 4 per cent on last year. The poll of 1,886 adults commissioned by the Independent Schools Information Service (Isis) directed questions at parents and the general public. It revealed that 63 per cent of the public supported the use of government funds to educate children in independent schools, up from 59 per cent in 1997.

The Government has abolished the assisted-places scheme, which subsidised independent school places for bright pupils, and is using the

money to reduce class sizes. Last year, in a similar poll, 47 per cent thought standards in state schools were lower than in independent schools. This year, that has risen to 49 per cent.

Among Labour-voting parents, the proportion who would like to use private schools is 51 per cent - up from 47 per cent last year - compared with 40 per cent who would not. There are 2,400 independent schools in the UK and Ireland educating 500,000 children, about 7 per cent of the school population. Fees at

independent schools range from £800 for the youngest pupils to £4,600 for a term. Mori's survey also found that smaller classes, better life chances, more teacher support and better discipline were reasons why parents would choose independent schools.

David Woodhead, national Isis director, said: "These findings show that, in spite of Labour's abolition of the assisted-places scheme, most people continue to believe that independent schools' high standards should be available to children regardless of their financial circumstances and the Government should support them."

A spokesman for the Local Government Association said that state school standards compared very favourably with independent schools. "Some of Britain's best brains... were educated at state schools."

John Dunford, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said polls of parents with children in state schools showed a high satisfaction rate.

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Joining the euro 'will force tax up'

A BIG hike in taxation will be needed by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, as the price for Britain's entry into the single European currency to meet convergence on interest rates, it was claimed last night by senior Liberal Democrats.

The party yesterday proposed substantial tax increases targeted at middle class home owners and second pension holders. Stamp duty would be increased on house sales, and mortgage tax relief would be scrapped under the Liberal Democrat plans over the next five years. Compulsory second pension contributions would also be used to impose a tight economic squeeze on the middle classes.

The Liberal Democrat conference in Brighton endorsed plans to reduce the tax burden of the poorest 10 per cent of people by increasing taxes on the richest 10 per cent, an amendment backed by Simon Hughes. But raising taxes to pay for Britain to enter the euro could provide explosive ammunition for the Tories who will fight the next election on a commitment to keep the pound.

Treasury sources were furious at the claims that taxes would have to rise, which they strongly denied, insisting that Britain could reduce the level of interest by other means, before entry took place. "I don't

TAXATION

By COLIN BROWN
AND SARAH SCHAEFER

know whether they have a real understanding of economics. They clearly haven't. One of the reasons we haven't entered the euro is precisely because our economic cycle is not in line with interest rates of the 'ins', said a source close to the Chancellor.

The Liberal Democrats, who are committed to Britain's entry to the euro, said Bank of England officials had disclosed in private talks this year they had been expecting a tax raising package, if the Government went ahead with entry to the euro.

"When we went to the Bank earlier this year, they said they had been expecting any government serious about joining the euro to do it," said a key adviser to the Liberal Democrat treasury spokesman, Malcolm Bruce.

The source said taxes will have to be raised to bring down interest rates by more than 50 per cent from 7.5 per cent to around 3.5 per cent to achieve convergence on rates in the euro among the 'ins', the countries who are joining the first wave.

Attacking tax breaks for the rich given by the Government, Mr Bruce said: "Preparing for



Bruce: Private talks

the single currency will require aligning British interest rates more closely with Europe, another reason why use of fiscal policy is essential. In a single currency area, there will be a single interest rate. This will make even more of a nonsense of his refusal to use taxes or savings to stabilise the economy."

The Liberal Democrat leadership was rebuffed when party members overwhelmingly backed calls for the National Minimum Wage to apply to all workers aged 16 and over. Delegates ignored a plea by the treasury team to give the Low Pay Commission powers to institute a lower "development rate" if evidence suggested the full rate would damage job prospects for young people. Ed Davey, the party's economics

spokesman, warned that rigid rules for the labour market might result in a growth in youth unemployment. "We cannot ignore the practical real life effects. With the withering impact of unemployment on the young, we must be cautious."

But Lembit Oplik, the party's spokesman on Wales, said that the exclusion of young people was against the party's principles. "Equal work should get equal pay... it is as simple as that. I accept there could be an impact on unemployment and we would have to be cautious. But that does not overcome the fundamental matter of principle and conviction that we are debating here."

Simon Eddy, 14, a member from Truro and St Austell, condemned the proposals as a "policy of poverty pay". He said to rapturous applause: "I don't eat less than the 18-year-old. When I am 16, will my food or heating cost less? Is there a discount card for 16-year-olds I can apply for? No one should be forced into work for money they can barely live on. The principle is simple: equal pay for equal work."

The leadership is braced for a conference defeat today over its plan to shift power over schools to parents from councillors, many of whom are Liberal Democrats.

Letters, Review, page 2



Baroness Nicholson, the former Tory MP who defected to the Liberal Democrats, has her eyes tested yesterday. Her party pledges to introduce free eye checks. John Voos

Loyalty fee plea for NHS doctors

HEALTH
By COLIN BROWN
AND SARAH SCHAEFER

A PROPOSAL to give NHS consultants higher pay to stop them "moonlighting" and taking on private patients was given enthusiastic support by Liberal Democrats yesterday at a fringe meeting with the BMA. They backed a plan, being considered by health ministers, to reward consultants who work exclusively for the NHS with an extra £30,000 a year, possibly by taking the money from their controversial system of merit money. Newly appointed consultants earn between £45,000 to £58,000 with merit awards taking their salaries to between £70,000 and £90,000, and occasionally as high as £120,000.

Joe Walsh, a West Sussex GP, was loudly applauded when he called for consultants to be given higher pay for greater commitment to the NHS.

The Liberal Democrat conference approved setting up a standing conference to review rationing decisions; they would also abolish charges for dental check-ups and freeze prescription charges. Simon Hughes, the party's health spokesman, said there should be a maximum waiting time of six months for serious operations.

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Boy with the cheek of a young Hague

I HAVE seen the future. It is a chubby-cheeked 14-year-old called Simon Eddy, a Liberal Democrat delegate from Truro & St Austell, and if there is a Liberal Democrat government during the decades ahead he will be its first prime minister.

He stood at the conference rostrum in white jeans and blue shirt and looked like a twentysomething student destined shortly to be a Commons researcher. Only when he criticised the Government for not extending the minimum wage to young people did he reveal his age.

Hacks, including myself, raced behind the new superstar anxious for exclusive interviews. We tripped over each other in the scrum with cameramen and lights trailing in our wake. He could only spare me a few moments as he had many further interviews.

"My paper will need a photo," I told him. "Contact me on my pager," he barked. Comparisons with William Hague came to mind as I wondered what would happen to his mop of thick brown hair in 20 years time. I mumbled something obsequious to him about his apparent confidence and self-assurance. "My mum has the moustache; my dad has the brains; but I'm told I've got both," he riposted.

Simon brought the conference to life as the shadow of rival coverage from the Clinton videos was lifted. A day of enthusiastic debates on candidate selection and the economy provided opportunities for lively performances from such as Malcolm Bruce, the party's Treasury spokesman and, yes, even from the outgoing party president, Robert MacLennan, during his valedictory address.

THE SKETCH



MICHAEL
BROWN

Delegates gasped as Mr Bruce was introduced as "the most unpopular member of our party..." and even the man in question appeared momentarily thrown. I had always thought of him as a decent friendly chap, and although I had been warned that the conference has a healthy disrespect for its big cheeses, this appeared to be going a bit far. Fortunately the chairman completed the sentence "...as far as the Labour Party is concerned and entirely to his credit".

A relieved Mr Bruce smiled and quickly got into his stride throwing large hunk of Labour-bashing into his speech. Delegates gorged on this, reminding their leader, Paddy Ashdown, that too much cosying up to Labour is not to their taste.

Mr Bruce worked his audience well and drove them fast. So fast, in fact, that we were heading at rocket speed for outer space. He talked about Liberal Democrats unrelenting their "docking procedures" for getting Britain successfully into the single currency, and then accused the Chancellor of five "murdering procedures" - deliberation, cogitation, exhortation, equivocation and ultimately obfuscation.

Mr MacLennan, meanwhile, must have been taking lessons in public speaking

from young Simon. Not normally given to conference oratory he took us by surprise with an elegant speech which brought his four-year presidency to an end. A self-deprecating line at the beginning of the speech won the delegates over to his side.

As he got into his stride, he even felt confident enough to throw in one or two timid jokes. But Liberal Democrats owe him a great debt of gratitude because of the negotiations he successfully concluded with Robin Cook which led to the terms of reference by which the Jenkins Commission on proportional representation must abide. If they achieve their dream of electoral reform, Mr MacLennan will go down in history as one of the principal architects.

There was a slight tremble in his voice as he came to his peroration. He spoke grandly of Liberal Democracy being "the creed of the new millennium... creeping up the estuaries of the world and filling the stagnant pools with certainty of an incoming, cleansing tide".

In any other circumstances such flowery language would have been dismissed as classic Liberal Democrat pomposity, but Mr MacLennan was entitled to his moment of glory and the conference loved it.

He sat down, overcome, to rapturous applause and a standing ovation. Even I wanted to ovate - the Conservative conference instinct not yet out of my system.

In years to come, when Simon attends his first Liberal Democrat conference as the newly victorious prime minister, Mr MacLennan will be wheeled on to be hailed by the faithful for making the dream come true.

CONFERENCE BRIEFS

'Blair behaves like Thatcher'

THE PRESIDENTIAL style of the Blair Government was "little different from the Thatcherite model" said Robert MacLennan, outgoing party president. He warned of a failure of comprehension if Mr Blair cut short constitutional reform. He added: "For all the bustle, the New Deals, the task forces, the special action zones, the bleak truth about this government is coming through: There is no renewal of Britain in prospect."

The new president, Baroness Middelton, gives her inauguration speech today.

Williams out of London race

BARONESS WILLIAMS ruled herself out of the race to be mayor for London. She was "100 per cent sure" she would not run for the post of Britain's first directly elected mayor, leaving Simon Hughes, party health spokesman, favourite to win the candidacy. The Liberal Democrats will use a one member, one vote ballot to choose their candidates for the mayoralty and the 25-seat Greater London Authority. For the mayoralty, a shortlist of five candidates will be drawn up. The elections are due to be held early in 2000.

Today's business

- Emergency debate on counter-terrorism measures.
- Debate on international investment.
- Don Foster replies to a debate on education.
- From 2pm:
- Debate on marketing of breast milk substitutes.
- Menzies Campbell and Baroness Williams speak in a debate on foreign affairs.
- Matthew Taylor opens a debate on environment and transport.
- Fringe meetings include:
- Business Services Association - The Economics of Fair Employment.
- National Housing Federation - Just the Job.

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Labour document urges members to 'smear' Lib Dems

LABOUR ACTIVISTS facing pressure from the Liberal Democrats should "find one flaw and smear them all" according to a leaked party document.

The paper, written by a researcher in Lambeth, was meant to show how New Labour can win back council seats lost because of the "loony left" in the 1980s. Lambeth's Labour group, which took back control of the council in May, has been praised by Tony Blair as "more New Labour than New Labour".

Now the council's ruling group is spreading its message more widely. Its leader, Jim Dickson, will address a fringe meeting at next week's Labour conference under the document's title, "Lessons from Lambeth".

The paper was leaked to a left-wing magazine, *Red Pepper*, after being sent to Labour councillors and ward secretaries in Hackney by Luke Ake-

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

hurst, a former aide to Frank Dobson and Glenda Jackson. Mr Akehurst, who now works for Hackney Labour group, was a member of the Blairite Labour Co-ordinating Committee.

The committee helped to draft far-reaching changes designed to reduce the power of left-wingers in the party. Other members included Neal Lawson and Ben Lucas, former aides to Jack Straw and Gordon Brown, who later formed a lobbying company, LLM.

The four-page document recommends dirty tactics such as offering pacts with the Liberal Democrats in order to attack them when they refuse; working with the Tories "because they tend to hate the Liberal Democrats as much as you do"; and showing the opposition in a negative light.

Labour supporters should suggest working with the Liberal Democrats, the paper says. "Call for a pact around your new agenda and then slam them for opposing it."

"The Liberal Democrats will never do a deal with Labour so you can offer them one in complete safety."

Red Pepper's editor, Hilary Wainwright, said the briefing document showed a contrast between the rhetoric and the reality of New Labour's attitude to the Liberal Democrats.

"These people aren't just local mavericks. They are people who are part of the Millbank set. This will reinforce the fear of a lot of the more radical Liberal Democrats that New Labour is more concerned to destroy them than to have a partnership."

Mr Dickson said the section of the paper dealing with smear tactics had gone "over the top" and the message he hoped to

put across was a positive one. Labour won back a 19-seat majority in Lambeth this year after four years in which the Liberal Democrats were the biggest party.

The council has been beset by revelations of incompetence and fraud. "This briefing was prepared in the context of extremely hard-fought battles in inner London between Labour and the Liberal Democrats. We would never seek to spread false allegations," he said.

Mike Tuffrey, leader of Lambeth Liberal Democrats for eight years until last month, said he believed the document reflected the Labour campaign.

"These sort of dirty tricks were evident in their campaign," he said. "Instead of trying to work constructively with us they went behind our backs, did secret deals with the Tories and played politics with the issues."



Nicole Kidman and Iain Glenn performing in 'The Blue Room' which opened at the Donmar Warehouse, in London, last night. The play is adapted by David Hare from Geraint Lewis's 'La Ronde'

Meat firms 'flouted rules on BSE'

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

OFFALS WITH a high risk of carrying BSE could have passed into human food as recently as 1985 because slaughterhouses routinely ignored government regulations, according to a former senior government vet.

Andrew Fleetwood concluded that there was "widespread and flagrant infringement" by abattoirs of rules intended to prevent the use in food of "Specified Bovine Offals" (SBOs). The SBOs are cattle parts, such as the spine and various internal organs, that are most likely to carry the BSE prions that have been shown to lead to the fatal "new variant" Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (v-CJD).

New laws banning the use of SBOs for food came into force in November 1989, three years after the first official recognition of BSE. But in written evidence to the BSE Inquiry, where he is testifying today, Dr Fleetwood said he had seen a letter from a consultant to the meat industry in June 1985, which said that "unscrupulous abattoirs had cheated and would continue to cheat the SBO legislation and that SBO was little better than a joke in certain quarters of the industry". SBOs were meant to be removed from carcasses and stained blue to prevent them being used in food. But he became suspicious in July 1994 when he compared actual and expected amounts of SBO recorded by rendering companies. The difference implied that SBOs were being put unstained into food. Scientific analysis has shown that thousands of BSE-infected cows would have been slaughtered after 1989, and used for food.

Dr Fleetwood also said government veterinary inspectors failed to clamp down on the problem.

Dixons offers 'free' Internet use

DIXONS, THE high street retailer, yesterday announced a new Internet access service that is ostensibly free - but will cost more than premium-rate sex lines to any users who need technical support.

The new service, called Freeserve, also drew complaints from rivals who charge an average of £12 per month to provide access. They claimed it could lead to the proliferation of pornography and electronic junk mail sent over the Net.

But it could also trigger a

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

"commoditisation" of Internet access, making it akin to the market for instant coffee - where almost indistinguishable brands compete for primacy while offering a service to which the user adds a simple ingredient. For coffee, it is hot water; for the Internet, a PC.

Freeserve will be available via free CD-ROMs distributed through the Dixons chain of more than 1,000 stores, which

also include Currys, PC World and The Link. The company says its primary target is home and small business users, a market for which it already provides 60 per cent of PCs.

John Clare, Dixons' chief executive, said: "Freeserve users will not pay a penny for their Internet access other than the call they make."

He described the service as "a foothold in the online market" for Dixons, adding: "By removing the monthly subscription charges we believe that

Freeserve will revolutionise the Internet service market and drive up Internet use."

The software will initially be available only for PCs and uses Microsoft programming. Telephone support will cost £1 per minute, far more than other Internet service providers.

Dixons said there would be income, in time, from electronic commerce, advertising and sponsorship of the Freeserve Web site, and telephone revenues from its partner Energis.

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By FRANK ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

SECRET POLITICAL donations channelled through local parties will be banned under new rules drawn up by Lord Neill's party funding enquiry, *The Independent* has learnt.

The revelation follows allegations that one of Britain's most powerful crime families gave £2,000 to Labour, possibly to the Islington constituency, before the last election.

The Neill committee on standards in public life, which will publish its report next month, will recommend limits above which donations must be declared, and which are almost certain to be legally enforced by the Government. They may well be lower than the £5,000 limit already set by the parties.

Although all three parties have promised to disclose national donations over £5,000, local payments do not have to be disclosed.

Labour, which has published national figures for two years, told the committee the loophole should be closed. It provides a means by which donors who do not want to be named can keep their identities secret.

A spokesman for the Neill committee said it did not intend to see it recommendations "blown out of the water" by letting the loophole continue.

Labour says the sums given to the national party by constituencies are "negligible" but cannot give an exact amount. The figure is included with "membership donations" of £515,000 in its 1997 report.

The Tories received £750,000 in donations from constituency parties last year, but do not name donors to local branches.

Labour has moved to rebut allegations that Tommy Adams, a London gangster jailed last week, gave money to the party. It said no such donation had been made nationally, but it could not rule out a local payment because officials had been unable to contact former treasurers.

WHAT WAS WORSE? THIS ADVERT OR YOUR FAILURE TO COMPLAIN?

The CRE advertising campaign included questioning the public's reaction to its racist posters

IT WAS never going to work. When the Commission for Racial Equality launched a range of poster advertisements depicting black people as rapists and comparing them to orang-utans, the campaign was bound to misfire.

Instead of achieving its aim of shaking up Britain and making us realise how racist we are, the posters have brought stinging criticisms of the CRE itself and the fastest wave of complaints the Advertising Standards Authority can remember. The police are now wondering whether the adverts actually break the law, and if they should bring a prosecution.

Adverts which backfire are nothing new. In fact, firms that rent out poster sites have come up with a sanction against the perpetrators of unnecessarily offensive campaigns – and the CRE is likely to be the first organisation to suffer the consequences.

Dismayed by the run of commercials for jeans, cars and clothes that have sent complainants reaching for their phones, the industry this summer started a vetting system. The CRE and other known offenders may be required to have any future poster campaigns vetted by the ASA before they are allowed on the billboards.

The process could also mark an end to adverts which companies cynically devise to cause a stir with a quick, offensive hit.

"The poster people don't want their posters hijacked by companies which court controversy for controversy's sake," says an ASA spokesman.

Other offenders which might not have passed the vetting

JANE ROBINS
Media Correspondent

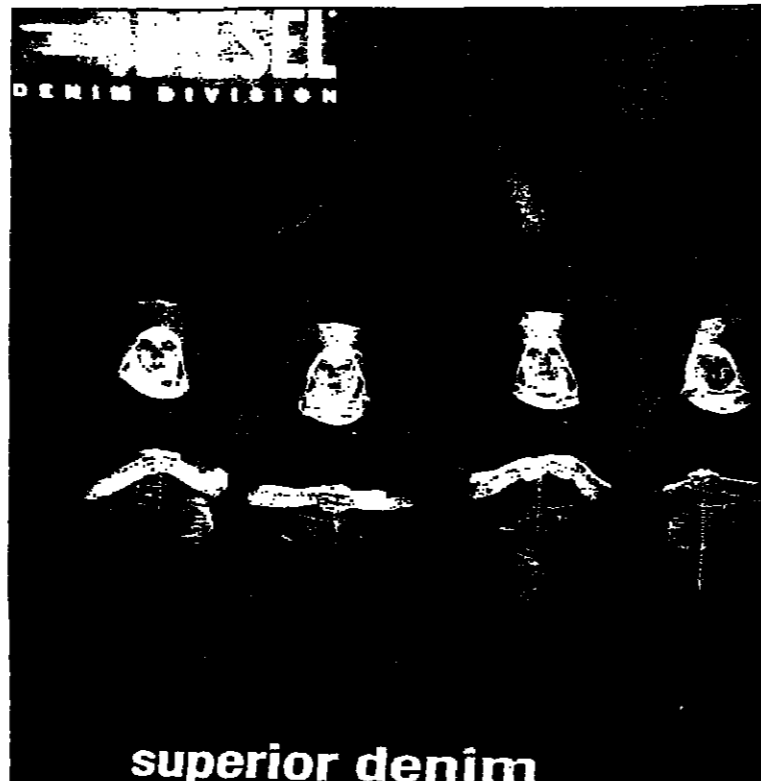
stage include the French Connection FCUK adverts and the Lee Jeans poster showing a very sharp, very high stiletto being aimed at a man's bottom.

"Being offensive and backfiring are the same thing in advertising," said Tom Rodwell of advertising agency Court Burnett. "The CRE campaign was both stupid and offensive. When amateurs like this get into the business, it hurts everybody."

The ASA agrees there have been fewer campaigns which think causing offence will pay off. Benetton has toned down its campaigns, although some others, like French Connection, have seen profits increase – its chairman, David Bernstein, said the FCUK campaign helped annual profits jump 32 per cent to £8.2m this year.

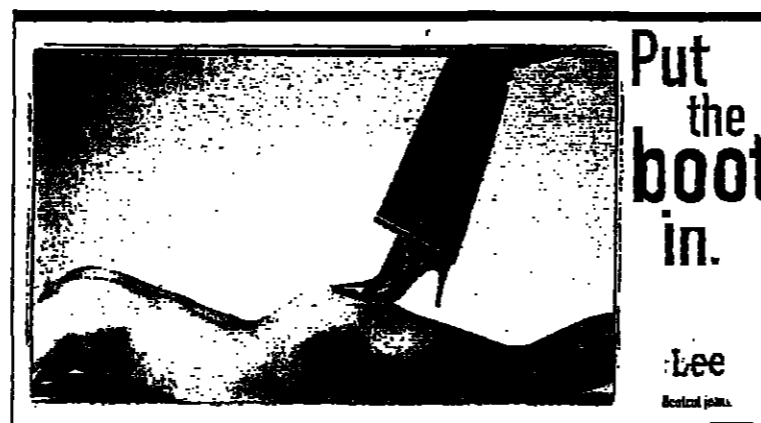
But there are non-offensive campaigns too, which cause problems. "This summer Melinda Messenger was appearing live at the big billboard on the Commercial Road [London]," says Mark Robinson of J Walter Thompson agency. "The problem was she was showering, and was in danger of becoming a major traffic hazard."

Tom Rodwell agrees. "Some ads misfire in an entirely innocent way. There is the famous old example of the Strand cigarettes TV ad, which showed a man in a foggy London street, with sultry music, and the slogan 'you're never alone with a Strand'. The hitch was that nobody bought the cigarettes because they didn't want to be a sad, lonely bastard like the man in the ad."



DIESEL JEANS

In July, the ASA told Diesel Jeans to stop using a poster featuring four young women dressed as nuns from the waist up, wearing jeans and holding rosaries under the headline "Superior Denim". In some posters a picture of the Virgin Mary in jeans was shown, triggering 95 complaints from people who found the images deeply offensive. Whether they would otherwise have been customers for Diesel jeans is not known.



LEE JEANS

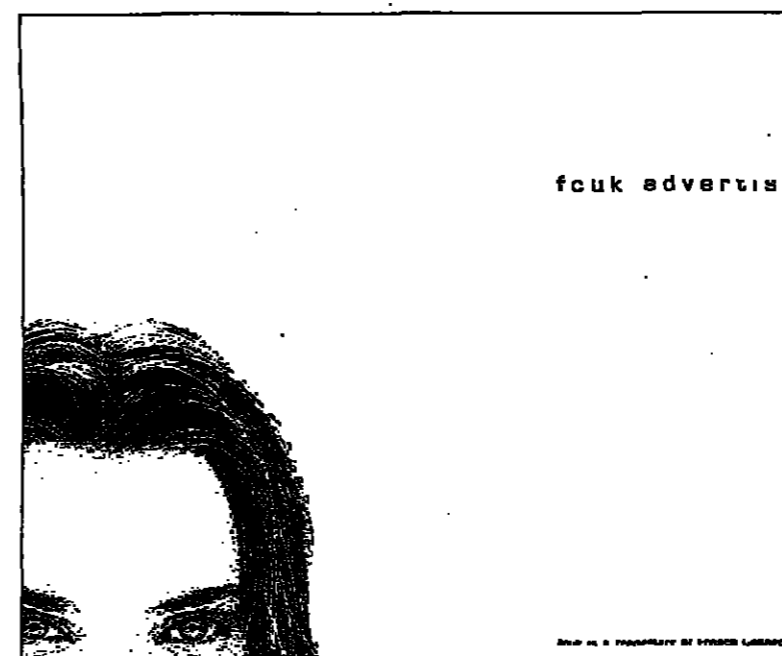
A poster showing a man's bottom lying vulnerably under a woman's stiletto was launched at the height of girl-power this spring, but apparently made some chaps feel "belittled and humiliated". Eighty-nine people complained, but the ASA didn't ban it. However, alienating men was considered a bad idea. "Women feel they have been victimised for years and take offence readily. Who knows? In 20 years more men may feel that way," a spokesman said at the time.



CLUB 18-30

Launched a range of magazine ads and posters, devised by Saatchi and Saatchi, which the men loved, but the girls didn't – and it was rumoured they were put off going on the legendary raunchy holidays as a result.

The slogans may give a clue to the problem: "Beaver Espana", "The Summer of 69", "Discover your erogenous zone", and "Girls. Can we interest you in a package holiday?" Banned by the ASA.



FCUK

French Connection caused a stir with its FCUK campaign. "It caused problems for parents trying to explain to their children what it was about," said the ASA, which seemed confused by how to react to the campaign. It was deemed offensive, but all right when commas were used – as in f.c.u and k. It also sanctioned "French Connection Me". Profits went up, but the advertisements backfired among those who thought them plain silly.

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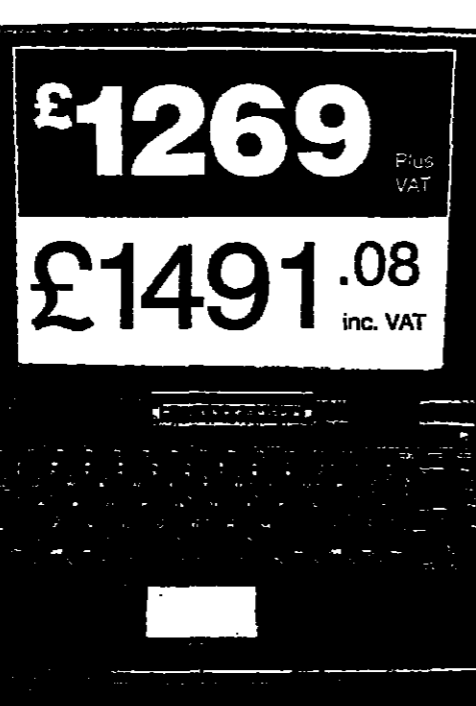
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Schools urged to teach citizenship

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

LESSONS IN citizenship should be compulsory for pupils as young as five to help safeguard democracy, a government-commissioned report said yesterday.

The report, drawn up by Professor Bernard Crick, lays down what pupils should learn about morality, how to join in public life and how to help their communities.

Even infant pupils should be able to take part in a simple debate and vote on an issue and juniors should discuss "a range of moral dilemmas" and understand the meaning of freedom of speech.

Secondary school pupils should learn about the changing constitution and "the values, interests and policies of the main political parties".

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, warmly welcomed the report, drawn up by his former tutor at Sheffield University.

He declared himself to be a "conservative with a small 'c'" in these matters. "Children in primary schools need to be taught right from wrong. We have to be clear about that."

He added: "Education for citizenship is vital to revive and

LITTLE VOTERS' LIST

■ Pupils aged five to seven should: be able to justify a personal opinion; take part in a simple debate and vote; recognise how the concept of fairness can be applied in a reasoned and reflective way; and understand terms such as respect, respect, question, comment, compare and contrast.

■ Pupils aged seven to 11 should: be able to reflect and hypothesise on issues of social, moral and political concern; take part in a question and answer session with an expert; understand there can be different types of government; and understand terms such as mayor, election, MP and Member of the European Parliament.

sustain an active democratic society in the new century. Linking rights and responsibilities and emphasising socially acceptable behaviour to others, underpins the development of active citizenship."

Citizenship will take up no more than 5 per cent of curriculum time. In primary schools it will be part of other lessons but there may be separate citizenship lessons in secondary schools. Because

■ Pupils aged 11 to 14 should: express plausibly and reflect on viewpoints contrary to their own; demonstrate an understanding of the use of statistics; know about the work of Parliament, the Government and the Executive in making and changing the law; and understand the economic system: the market, the concept of price, poverty and unemployment.

■ Pupils aged 14 to 16 should: investigate, analyse, discuss and reflect on major challenges faced by communities; take part in formal debates and have structured opportunities to vote, and know about the values, interests and policies of the main political parties.

the requirement to teach citizenship will be new to English schools, an independent commission on citizenship education will be set up "to guard against any suggestion of political bias".

Inspectors from the Office for Standards in Education will check that schools are fulfilling their legal duty.

Professor Crick said that schools were already used to teaching children about sensi-

tive subjects using "balance and fairness".

"It is an insult to the professionalism of teachers to think that these areas cannot be dealt with in the same way that controversial areas of history would be dealt with or aspects of the environment in geography lessons."

The report's recommendations, including "learning outcomes", will now go to advisers drawing up the new national curriculum for 2000. About a third of schools are at present teaching citizenship.

Mr Blunkett said the Government was not selling schools what to teach but setting out learning objectives. Teachers would decide how to meet them.

Teachers' leaders warned that the curriculum was already too full.

John Dunford, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said: "We really don't need a commitment to another 5 per cent of curriculum time in secondary schools. I am afraid that a lot of good work being done in health education, careers, sex education and personal and social education will be squeezed out."

An independent commission was unnecessary, he said, and smacked of "Big Brother".

Leading article, page 3

Native squirrel faces total eclipse

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

THE RED squirrel faces extinction in England in the next decade and spiralling decline elsewhere in the UK unless further measures are taken to protect it, a report from The Wildlife Trusts warns today.

The continuing success of its woodland rival, the introduced grey squirrel, is driving the native red from more and more of its remaining habitats in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, the report says.

Apart from populations on the Isle of Wight and on Brownsea Island in Dorset, and a few individuals in Thetford Forest, Norfolk, the native red has virtually gone from England south of Lancashire.

Although there are still good numbers in Northumberland, Durham and Cumbria, these too are at risk. Northumberland was invaded by greys five years ago, and the report's assessment is that the estimated 30,000 red squirrels remaining could be lost from mainland England by 2010.

The red squirrel, *Sciurus vulgaris*, is no ecological match for its North American cousin the grey, *Sciurus carolinensis*. However, the report debunks the common belief that greys attack reds and drive them away. They simply eat them out of house and home. Greys also carry a virus called parapox to which they are resistant but which the reds find fatal.

Grey squirrels were first introduced to Woburn Abbey in Bedfordshire in 1867. They have increased to more than 2.5 million. Their colonisation continues at the rate of about six miles a year.



The red squirrel is being eaten out of its habitat by the grey Alisdair McDonald

JADED COMMUTERS can give themselves a lift on the way home by popping into their railway station medical centre for a supply of Viagra.

Medicentre, the chain of private medical clinics located on London rail stations and in shopping malls in the North and Midlands, is offering a bulk-buy deal on the drug to capitalise on the temporary NHS ban announced last week by Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health.

The clinics are charging £120 for a one-hour consulta-

VIAGRA CORNER

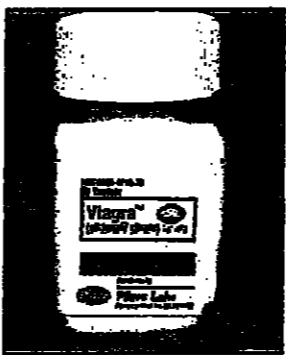
DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONTIERS
OF MEDICINE

tion and blood test under their new impotence service, but the fee is refundable if patients buy 78 tablets at £15 each, making a total of £1,170.

A spokeswoman for Medicentre said: "You can get it in Boots for less but you have to have a private prescription from a doctor first and that can cost up to £50. Patients will only

be prescribed Viagra if it is appropriate after they have had the full consultation."

If the drug is made available on the NHS, one in four GPs would be opposed to it, according to a survey by BBC Radio 4's Today programme. The survey of 100 doctors found even among those who said it should be prescribed on



the NHS, three-quarters thought it should be rationed or restricted in some way.

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Inquiries into disasters 'are far too slow'

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

JOHN PRESCOTT has ordered a review of the way inquiries into major accidents are carried out in the face of mounting criticism of the time it takes to find out the causes.

The Deputy Prime Minister has asked officials in the Department of the Environment, Transport and Regions to see if the system can be speeded up.

The move could lead to a reform of the legal system and is seen as a way of increasing transport safety. It was prompted by concern over the delays to inquiries into disasters such as the sinking of the *Marchioness* pleasure boat and the Southall rail crash in London and the loss of the trawler *Pescado* off Cornwall.

The report into the *Pescado* disaster was published yesterday, almost eight years after it sank with the loss of six crew.

The delay in publication angered relatives of the dead.

Public inquiries are often delayed by criminal proceed-



Joseph O'Connor: Blamed in official report

ings, to avoid the risk of prejudicing a trial. One way to shorten the time it takes for the cause of an accident to be made public would be to hold the inquiry before a trial. But that would need the co-operation of other Whitehall departments such as the Home Office and the Lord Chancellor's Department.

Mr Prescott said yesterday he was concerned over the time it took to get to the truth.

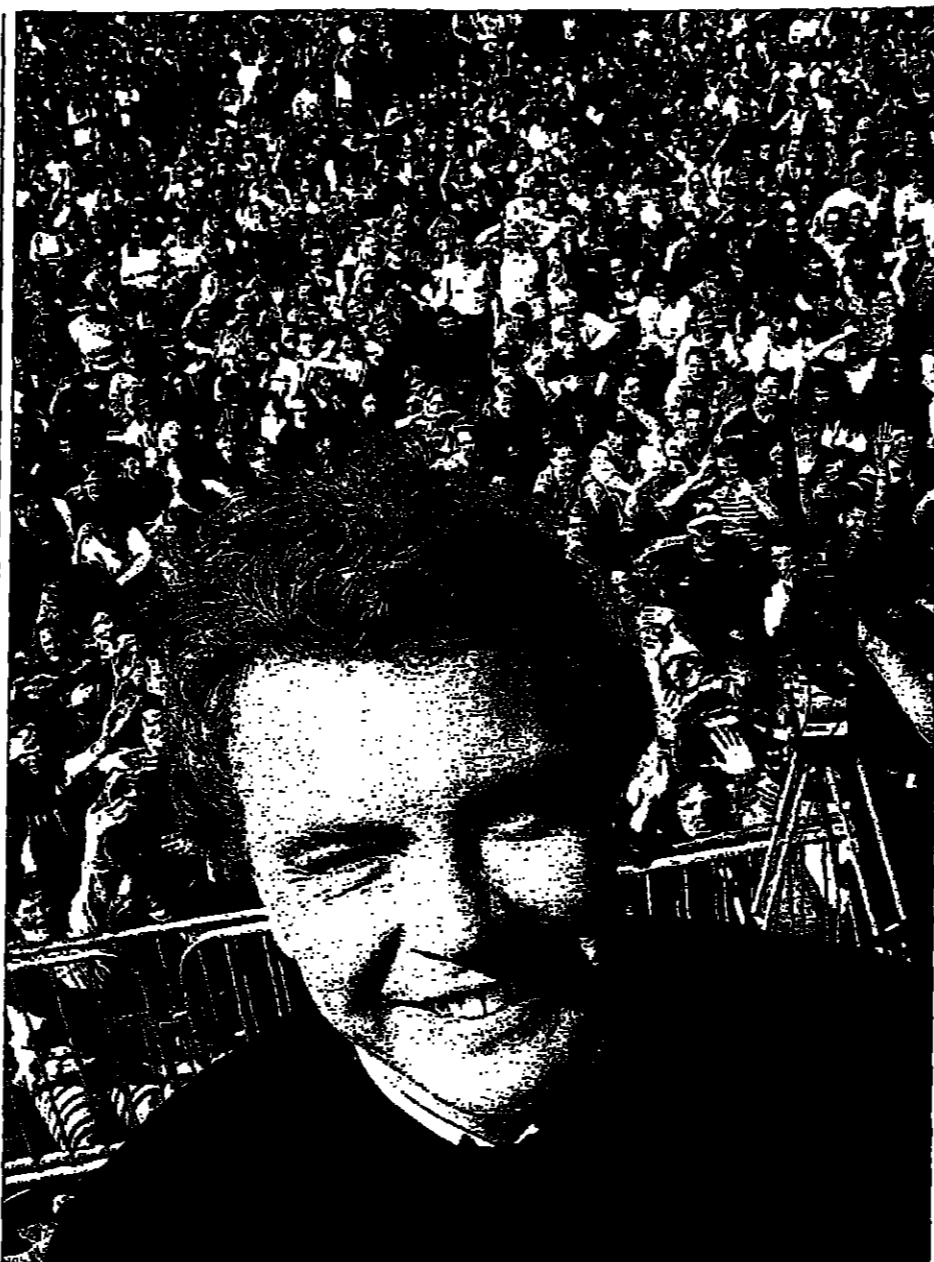
"The complications of pursuing a court case and preventing an inquiry taking place is, I think, a most unsatisfactory situation," he said.

Mr Prescott's department said he had asked the Chief Inspector of Marine Accidents to propose ways to shorten inquiries. "He has also set work in motion in the department to see how accident investigations can be shortened bearing in mind other legal processes and to ensure that justice is done," a spokesman said.

Mr Prescott's comments were seized on by lawyers for victims of the Southall rail crash. They called on the Government to ensure the public inquiry started.

Families of the seven people who died were told last week - the first anniversary of the crash - that the inquiry could not start until the criminal prosecution of the train driver had ended.

Families of the *Pescado* crew yesterday called for a public inquiry into claims that the trawler was dragged down by a submarine. They condemned the official report, which blamed Alan Ayres, the ship's owner, and Joseph O'Connor, managing agent.



Matthew Bannister has risen to second in the BBC hierarchy Christopher Jones

BBC moves Bannister upstairs

BY JANE ROBINS
Media Correspondent

MATTHEW BANNISTER yesterday became the strongest internal contender to be the next director-general of the BBC, with the announcement that he is to move from director of Radio to become chief executive of BBC Production.

Mr Bannister, a man of impeccable British credentials, becomes second in the hierarchy to Sir John Birt, jointly with Will Wyatt, the chief executive of BBC Broadcast.

Mr Wyatt, though, is nearing the end of a long career, while Mr Bannister is only 41. His promotion is also his first proper job in television. "I've never actually made a television programme," he confirms, but says he brings "clear strategic thinking" to the job.

His move gives him an edge over other BBC insiders with an eye on the top job, such as BBC News's Tony Hall (47) and Regional Broadcasting's Mark Byford (40). The latter was also promoted yesterday to become boss of the World Service.

External contenders for the post, which becomes available when Sir John steps down in 2000, include Channel 4's Michael Jackson (40), Greg Dyke (50) and Channel 5's David Elstein (53).

Mr Bannister's new job puts him in charge of a £720 million programme budget, and 4,500 people. He said that his first priority was to "develop new talent, and use the BBC's ability to take risks with new ideas, talent and formats".

Mr Bannister is best known as the controller of Radio 1 who

sacked most of the middle-aged DJs, and tried to reinvent the station for a younger audience. During that time the audience fell from 18 million to 11 million - a collapse which did not owe everything to Mr Bannister's strategy, since it coincided with the explosion of commercial radio stations aimed at younger listeners.

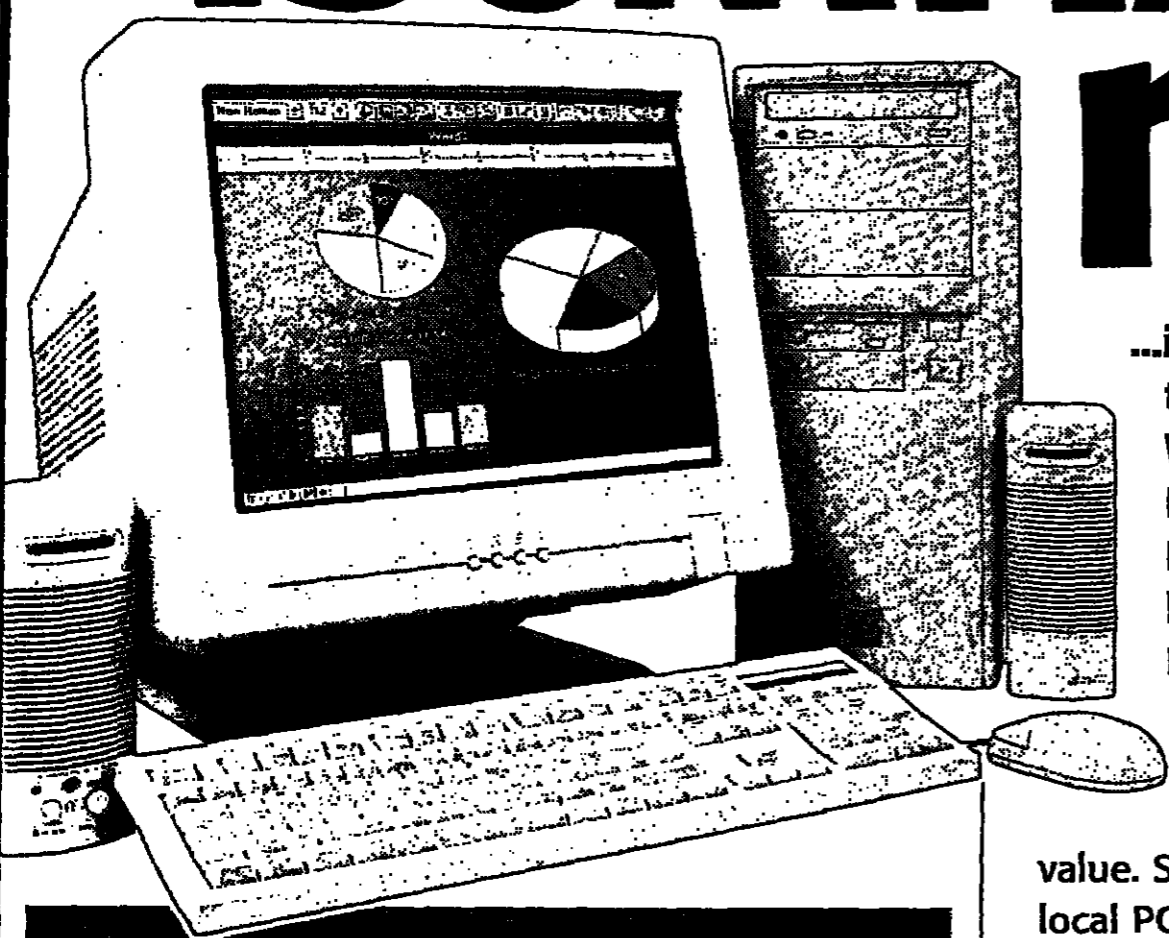
As director of Radio, he has been accused of sidelining the hard-core of Radio 3 and Radio 4 in his continued mission to secure younger listeners for Radio 1 and 5 Live.

Mr Bannister, throughout his rapid rise in the world of radio, has been a staunch promoter of the management-consultant inspired reforms introduced by Sir John. He has been influential on the Corporation's "Programme Strategy Review", as well as serving terms on the boards of BBC Broadcast and BBC Production.

Eyes will now turn to who might succeed him in radio. Contenders include Radio 4 boss James Boyle, as well as Continuous News supremo Jenny Abramsky, Radio 7's Jim Mair, and 5 Live's Roger Mosey, a former editor of the *Today* programme, are outside bets.

At the World Service, Mark Byford takes over from Sam Younger, and faces the task of persuading the workers at Bush House to take up the British attitudes to efficiency and streamlining that now pervade the rest of the BBC.

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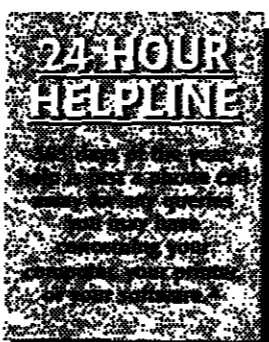


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IN BRIEF

Five killed in car crash

FOUR ADULTS and a baby were killed when their car was in collision with an articulated lorry yesterday afternoon. Last night, investigators were trying to establish the cause of the crash, which occurred on the A71 East Calder bypass near Edinburgh. The lorry driver was taken to hospital in Edinburgh, suffering from leg injuries.

Fury at rail fares increase

FARES ON a flagship train service between London and north-west England are to be raised by up to 150 per cent from Sunday in a move that has infuriated passenger watchdogs. North West Trains is implementing the inflation-busting rise on the service from Rochdale, Blackpool and Manchester to London Euston.

Fears of serial killer in Ireland

FEARS THAT a serial killer may have been responsible for the disappearances of at least six Irish women have led to a special investigation into possible links between the cases. The unsolved disappearances include cases of women from Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow, Westford, Kilkenny and Offaly who vanished without trace over the past six years.

Youngest transplant patient home

BRITAIN'S YOUNGEST heart and kidney transplant patient, Kay Gadsby, 11, has returned to her home in Wakefield, West Yorkshire. Kay, survived cancer by having chemotherapy only to find out her heart and kidneys were failing. Following months waiting for transplant donors she finally had an operation at Newcastle's Freeman Hospital.

£14,000 for a room with a view

WOODEN BEACH huts measuring 12ft by 8ft are fetching more than £14,000 each in one of Britain's most picturesque seaside towns, according to estate agents. Around 50 people are waiting to buy the prime position chalets on the sea front at Southwold, Suffolk. Other huts along the front fetch between £5,000 and £10,000.

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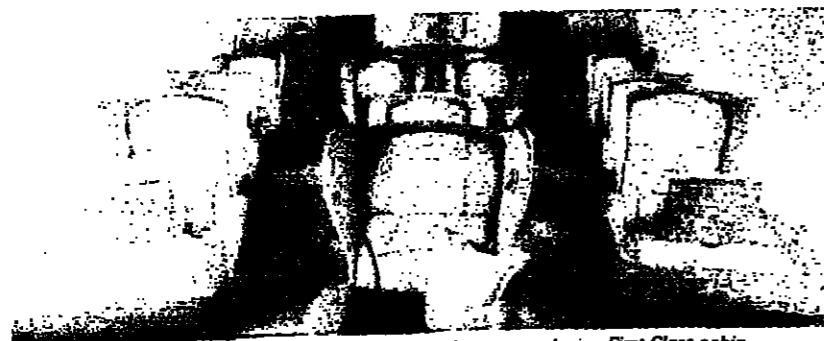
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Singapore Airlines has created the world's most exclusive First Class cabin, hosting no more than 12 customers in our unique and luxurious seats*, crafted to meet the highest standards of comfort, spaciousness and privacy.

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Singapore Airlines has created the world's most exclusive First Class cabin.

And for a great night's sleep, built-in air mattresses inflate as the seats transform into flat beds, laid out with fresh bed linen and soft, down-filled duvets.

Dining in First Class is now an even more refined experience, with a restaurant style of service that lets customers eat as and when

they please, on elegant serviceware by French design house, Givenchy.

On their return flights from Singapore, First Class customers can experience our new personalised ground service as soon as they alight from their cars at Changi Airport.

They are now greeted and escorted into our new First Class Reception, an elegant lounge where their check-in is taken care of by our Premium Service staff.



The 14" KrisWorld screen is simply the biggest in the sky.

The generous seat pitch and recline on the plush new Italian-designed seats* gives a first class feeling of unparalleled comfort. The seats also feature the world's first adjustable privacy screens and, as in our First Class, lap-top power supply.

Economy Class customers will also enjoy a refreshing new environment and a greatly

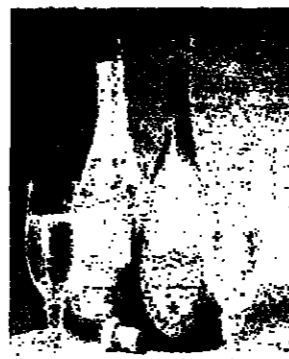
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Report attacks child jail regime

CONDITIONS AT a child jail are so bad that if it was run by a social services department it would probably be closed down, the Chief Inspector of Prisons says in a scathing report published today.

Sir David Ramsbotham says that conditions at Werrington young offenders institution in Staffordshire were "utterly unsuitable" for 15 to 17-year-olds. He savagely criticises Prison Service managers who introduced a series of recent changes at Werrington, all of which had been detrimental.

Sir David says: "To find that adult prison conditions have been deliberately introduced, overturning previous and appropriate treatment and conditions for children, is nothing short of disgraceful..."

"I have not come across such totally deliberate and unnecessary impoverishment of children anywhere and suspect that, were Werrington to be a secure custody unit in the hands of the social services, it would be closed for lack of provision of appropriate facilities."

Sir David makes it plain that his criticism is levelled not at the "obviously caring" governor or staff but at senior Prison Service managers who directed the changes in the regime.

Dormitory accommodation was replaced by adult prison-style two-person cells as the number of inmates was doubled to 192. Sir David says young people should not be held in units of more than 60.

Inmates - Sir David called them "children" - had been switched from eating in communal dining rooms, to collecting food from a servery and eating it in their cells, which were "essentially lavatories".

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

There was inadequate medical cover to look after teenagers who threatened to injure themselves and the sports hall had no showers or lavatories.

Association time was limited to two evenings a week on landings with no chairs - so inmates simply stood around outside their cells. The number of inmates who deliberately hurt themselves was abnormally high and the effect of the regime was to introduce young people to imprisonment, rather than offer an alternative to a life of crime.

The Howard League for Penal Reform said the report was "extremely damning". Spokeswoman Fran Russell said: "There perhaps needs to be an investigation into what happened here. They had some money to make some changes and what they did was to create something much worse than was there before."

Paul Cavatino, of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said: "The overcrowded conditions which the Chief Inspector found at Werrington were a result of the courts' increasing punitiveness towards young offenders."

"This has produced a 64 per cent increase in the number of juveniles jailed since 1992. The latest figures show that 88 per cent of these young people are reconvicted within two years of release."

Richard Tilt, director-general of the Prison Service, said he had commissioned an "urgent report" into conditions at Werrington and admitted that there was need for "substantial improvement".



English Heritage says the Stonehenge Master Plan will further enhance the appeal of 'the most powerful, mysterious and distinctive place in the world'

Stonehenge becomes a walk-in, car-free zone

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

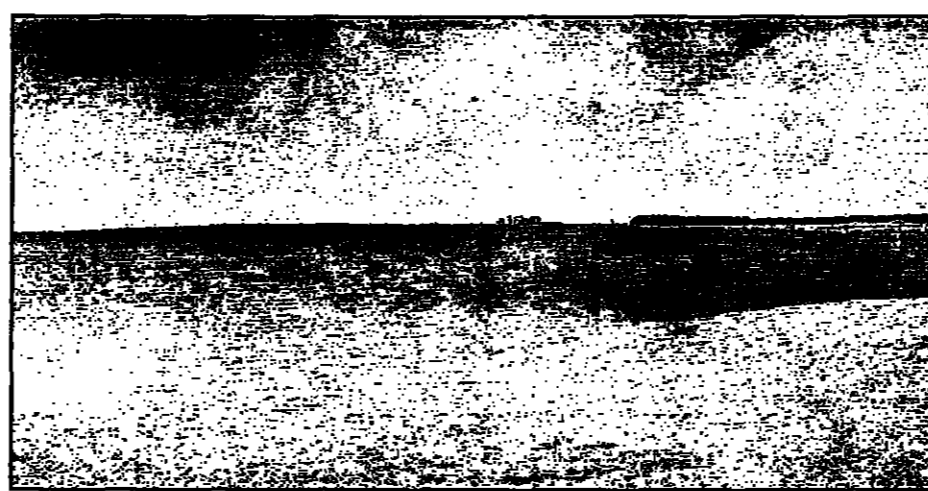
AFTER YEARS of debate and sometimes heated arguments, the final plans to remove traffic from around Stonehenge were unveiled yesterday.

Sir Jocelyn Stevens, the chairman of English Heritage, said the plans would restore the "dignity and sense of isolation" of the site.

The scheme for the 5,000-year-old monument in Wiltshire includes burying the busy A303 under a cut-and-cover tunnel and a bypass for nearby Winterbourne Stoke. It is expected to cost around £125m.

English Heritage said it would cause minimal disruption to local people and provide free access for the public to walk "amongst the stones and to experience the most powerful, mysterious and distinctive place in our world".

The scheme was given Government backing last July when details of the roads programme were announced.



How the prehistoric site would look without the road

A spokeswoman for English Heritage said: "The reunification of Stonehenge which restores its dignity and its sense of isolation set amongst 450 Scheduled Ancient Monuments in an ancient landscape of chalk downland is the ultimate and most important environmental objective of the Stonehenge Master Plan."

She added the closure of the A344, the removal of the 1960s visitors' centre, which has been described as a national disgrace, and the restoration of the landscape could start straight away.

The new environment is expected to attract new varieties of flowers, ground nesting birds and butterflies.

Farmers affected by the plan will be compensated by English Heritage and the National Trust over the next 20 years.

Although no-one knows for sure how Stonehenge was created, the latest theory is that the large outer stones, which came from the Marlborough Downs, about 20 miles away, were dragged on sledges over rollers.

It is thought that it would have taken 600 men to move each stone over the steepest part of the route.

The inner circle, which was built around 2000 BC, is made from bluestones from the Prescelly Mountains in south-west Wales, about 240 miles away.

Secret of how to relax and be happy

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

"ASK YOURSELF whether you are happy," said the 19th century philosopher JS Mill, "and you cease to be so." But now psychologists have found what they say is the key to happiness.

Professor Michael Argyle told the British Psychological Society social psychology conference that his research had showed that people who enjoyed dancing achieved the highest levels of happiness.

In a sample of 270 adults, researchers looked at the positive emotions induced by four different leisure pursuits - sport/exercise, music, church-going and watching television soap operas as well as family activities and work.

"Leisure is very important for people's happiness as it is something they have control over," said Professor Argyle. "Other things we associate with happiness such as marriage or income or the weather we can't change."

The results found exercise, and particularly dancing, scored highest on the scale of happiness - defined by Professor Argyle as "experiencing frequent positive states" as well as general satisfaction with life.

"Watching soaps was positive but very feebly so," said Professor Argyle. "In comparison, sport was totally different and much more attractive. Dancing was particularly so because it not only combines exercise but also sociability and music. And sociability is also one of the biggest factors for happiness as was music. At the bottom of the scale was watching television which was very low key because people were barely awake."

His research also found wide differences in the levels of happiness reported by people of different nationalities. More than 50 per cent of Danes say they are satisfied with their life, compared with 10 per cent of French and Italian people, and about 30 per cent of Britons.

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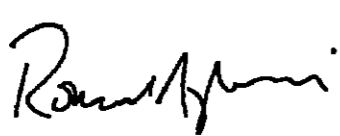
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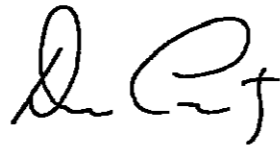
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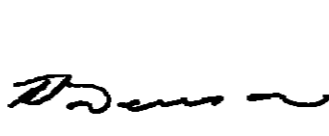
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Robert Ayling
Chief Executive



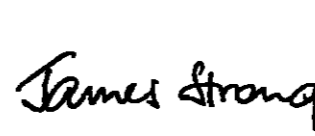
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South African troops fail to quell coup

SMOKE WAS still pouring from freshly torched and looted buildings in downtown Maseru last night, with occasional gunshots punctuating the rumble of distant mortar fire.

It was little more than 12 hours since the South African army had intervened to restore law and order to the capital of tiny Lesotho. But its first day of foreign combat since the end of apartheid appeared to have gone badly wrong, with key objectives - including the royal palace and the main army barracks on the edge of town - still in the hands of opposition demonstrators and Lesotho's mutinous army.

While South African troops continued to pound the Makoanyane army barracks with mortar fire as dusk fell, mobs of looters and stone-throwing youths were left with the run of the town.

A spokeswoman for the South African National Defence Forces, which had hoped to overawe resistance in a bloodless swoop, said three of its soldiers had been killed in fighting with the Lesotho Defence Forces and 11 injured.

A source in the Lesotho po-

lice, which has remained loyal to the beleaguered government of Prime Minister Phakalitha Mosisi, said two of the South Africans were killed along with 13 members of the Lesotho army early in the day after a South African task force tried to secure the strategic Khatse Dam in the mountainous interior. He confirmed there were other casualties, but could not say what the death toll was.

A Maseru hospital director, Piet McPherson, said five people were dead on arrival at his hospital and 49 were treated for injuries, including 29 gunshot wounds.

As its troops went into action, the South African government announced it was intervening at the request of Lesotho's constitutional monarch King Letsie III to restore the rule of law. The operation was authorised by the Home Affairs minister, Chief Mangosutho Buthelezi, who is standing in for President Nelson Mandela and Deputy President Thabo Mbeki while both are out of the country.

The operation was officially carried out under the aegis of the Southern African Development Community, but an expected troop contingent from Botswana had still not arrived by yesterday evening.

Lesotho, a mountainous and deeply impoverished Commonwealth country about the size of Belgium, has effectively been without government in recent days as opposition demonstrators shut down government offices and state radio to protest the alleged rigging of general elections held last May.

Two weeks ago, soldiers guarding the palace fired on police who were attempting to disperse a crowd of opposition demonstrators camped outside, killing one police officer. Junior officers in the traditionally pro-opposition army subsequently mutinied against their government-appointed commanders and forced them to resign. In recent days, most government ministers are believed to have fled the country.

Yesterday's fighting began shortly after dawn when 600 South African troops crossed the Caledon River in armoured vehicles from neighbouring



A protester lying in the road in an attempt to halt a South African military convoy in Maseru, capital of Lesotho, yesterday

South Africa, supported by six helicopters. According to a civilian security officer working with the United Nations, the SADC troops took up positions at the city's two army barracks and the royal palace, and shooting broke out soon after.

According to a Western security source close to the op-

eration, the South Africans appeared to have taken control of the city at midday but then began to withdraw from key objectives, including the palace, leaving the city to the mob. As night fell, angry opposition demonstrators continued to ring the palace, vowing revenge for South Africa's "invasion". A

police source said he believed the king was still trapped inside, although it was not clear if he was being held hostage.

A Western security expert - who asked not to be named - was scathing about South Africa's decision to intervene with such a small and apparently badly directed force. "I

don't think they came with definite objectives other than to disarm the army and take the palace, and they came with insufficient numbers to overcome what resistance they met. When looting broke out they said it was nothing to do with them, it was up to the Lesotho police to deal with it but there

simply weren't enough of them." The British High Commissioner, Peter Smith, said Maseru's 100 British residents had been advised to stay at home, but several had taken refuge in his house, while others were attempting to join a convoy at the US embassy awaiting a South African armoured escort.

IN BRIEF

Angolan pact under threat

DIPLOMATIC efforts to halt the collapse of Angola's four-year-old peace pact are being thwarted because the government says it cannot guarantee the safe movement of international mediators, the United Nations office in Luanda said yesterday. The UN special envoy Issa Diallo is seeking to meet with Jonas Savimbi, the leader of the former rebel group UNITA, at the central highland town where he lives.

Author's return sparks protest

MUSLIM hard-liners staged angry protests in Bangladesh yesterday against author Taslima Nasrin, who whipped up a storm four years ago with her controversial books and has returned to the country after a self-imposed exile. Nearly 1,000

Muslim protesters offered prayers at a mosque and marched through Dhaka, the Bangladeshi capital, demanding that Nasrin be given the death sentence for blaspheming Islam.

Police arrest newlyweds

A NEWLYWED couple in Iowa was arrested over the weekend after police say they grew a little too angry with hotel clerks who had mistakenly given away their bridal suite. "All parties became upset," said Bill Kietzman, an agent with the state Division of Criminal Investigation. "It got pretty aggressive. Some punches were thrown, there was a lot of wrestling."

Sudan parties to meet

THE MAIN warring parties in Sudan's civil war will meet in early October to

discuss extending their ceasefire to allow food deliveries to hungry people in the south, an aid official said yesterday. Representatives from the Khartoum government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army will meet in the Kenyan capital Nairobi on October 5 to discuss prolonging a temporary truce which expires on October 15, said Alberto Navarro, director of the European Community Humanitarian Office.

Norwegian PM back at work

NORWEGIAN Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik will be back at work as planned today after more than three weeks' sick leave due to depression, his office said yesterday. "He'll be back on Thursday," Bondevik's spokesman Oeivind Oestang said.

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	£10,000	13.8%	£227.95	£13,677.00
	£16,000	12.8%	£364.75	£21,885.00
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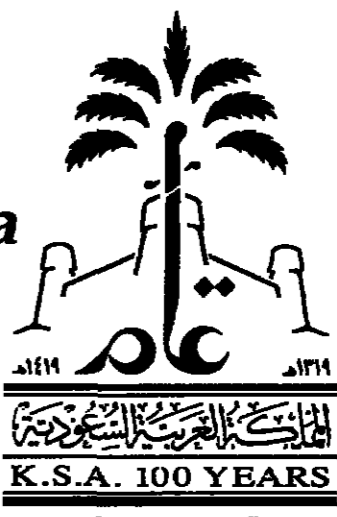
23rd SEPTEMBER 1998



King Abdul Aziz
(Ibn Saud)

National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

IN THIS, THE 66th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF SAUDI ARABIA, WE ALSO CELEBRATE THE CENTENARY BY THE ISLAMIC CALENDAR OF THE RECAPTURE OF RIYADH BY THE EXILED YOUNG IBN SAUD.



Described by Chambers Encyclopaedia as "the outstanding Arab ruler of his time", Ibn Saud had the vision to bring together the tribes of the Arabian Peninsula in order to forge a single kingdom, founded upon strict adherence to Islam.

Banished was I from the heart of Arabia, Riyadh my home, had been stolen by others; banished was I, and my father and mother, brothers and sisters, deprived of our birthright. Sadness we felt for the years that denied us the feel of the sand of the Nejd in our hands.

Kindness we found in Kuwait beyond measure but kindness alone could not cure the pain of living in exile, a life without pleasure, for pleasure, not nurtured in honour, will wither. I knew from the earliest years of my living that I must return to the place of my birth.

They told me that only my death would await me, (but fear is a far harsher master than death); they warned of the dangers of crossing the desert but it was the desert had given me breath. They asked how a lad could recapture a city, when put to the sword what my pride would be worth; I asked how the seed, lying dry in the sand, at the first taste of rain can emerge from the earth.

"Who will ride at my side on this perilous venture? Who will risk life and limb to expel Al Rashid?" Sixty answered my call, young and brave, one and all. "With all of our strength, we will give what you need; we will stand by your side when the battle is joined until each of us falls - or Riyadh is freed."

It was not for the glory we rode from Kuwait; we held faith as our shield and justice our sword. I sought to regain the land of my fathers but in all I deferred to the will of the Lord. We rode towards Riyadh with banners unfurled, putting trust in the God who created the world.

Through a cold Ramadan we encamped in the desert; we fasted one month in the village of Haradh, far away from the eyes of those who might think that folly could lead us to try to take Riyadh. When the fasting was over, I summoned my kinsmen; without hesitation they answered my call. Like shadows that slip over sand dunes at sunset we gathered in silence beneath Riyadh's wall.

On that night long ago, when the time came to act, I knew in my heart what it was to be free; the greatest good fortune in life for a man is to know he has reached for the best he can be. Whatever might follow that cold, moonless night, we would know we had fought for a cause that was right.

I chose from my band a mere handful of men; each one read the risks from the look in my eyes. We scaled the walls under cover of darkness; we watched for the sun to put light in the skies. Outnumbered, we knew that our hope of success must depend in the end on our use of surprise.

In a fight it is true if you strike off the head of a man or an army, the battle is won. We few faced a garrison ready to crush us; such odds left no question what had to be done. The fate of the Amir of Riyadh was sealed. He must die for the wounds of Al Saud to be healed.

When Ajlan, the Amir, appeared in the open, we struck as the lion descends on its prey. Bin Jelawi forced open the gate of the fortress; the rest of the brothers then joined in the fray. The garrison knew that resistance was futile; Al Saud had returned to its home on that day.

Looking back through the decades, the taking of Riyadh was merely one step on a path, hard and long. After many a battle, I put all my heart into building a nation, devout, proud and strong, with justice its sword and faith as its shield, in the land where the message of God was revealed.

For further information, contact: Ministry of Information, PO Box 570, Riyadh 11161 - www.saudinf.com

سبتمبر 23 1998



Gusts of wind from the Atlantic bending trees in San Juan, Puerto Rico, yesterday before the arrival of Hurricane Georges, which battered the Virgin Island of St Croix on Monday as it swept across the Caribbean Ana Martinez

Slovakian PM enlists stars to woo voters

SHE CAN certainly turn heads, but can Claudia Schiffer turn around the political fortunes of Slovakia's controversial Prime Minister? That is the question on the streets of Bratislava this week as Slovaks consider the latest electoral stunt by Vladimir Meciar.

The German model is one of a trio of celebrities drafted in by Mr Meciar to boost his standing before the country goes to the polls this weekend.

Along with Ms Schiffer, who has not previously been known for her interest in central European politics, the controversial nationalist leader has received bizarre morale-boosting visits from Gerard Depardieu, the French actor, and Claudia Cardinale, the Italian actress.

Depardieu said he had had a wonderful time with Meciar. "I am very glad that I could accept the invitation of Mr Vladimir and come among you," he told a rally of Meciar's

BY ADAM LEBOR
in Bratislava

supporters. "His surname is difficult for me to pronounce so he calls me Gerard and I call him Vladimir. Despite meeting for the first time today, I had the impression that we had known each other for a very long time. I spent a very nice Sunday with nice people. I drank good wine and saw the joys of life," he added.

All three visits received saturation coverage in the state-controlled television and pro-government newspapers, although locals quipped that Ms Cardinale's role in *The Pink Panther* with the late Peter Sellers made her a suitable supporter of the comedy of errors that is Slovak politics.

For unlike its neighbours Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic, Slovakia has failed to make the first round of either Nato or EU accession, although this country of 5.3 mil-

lion, whose capital is just 40 minutes drive from Vienna, started from a similar political and economic base, as a part of the Soviet bloc.

Western decision-makers say that Slovakia's internal politics mean it must be excluded from the new Europe, at least until the Government meets Western democratic norms - particularly in regard to the role of the opposition, an independent judiciary, the protection of Hungarian and Roma minorities and a free, independent media.

Critics point to the fact that the office of President, formerly held by Michal Kovac, a liberal opponent of hard-line nationalist Meciar, has been empty for six months. There was an attempt earlier this year to tilt the election law in favour of the governing coalition that drew protests from the EU and the United States. Opaque privatisation deals saw key industries sold off to gov-

ernment supporters, and there are alleged links between organised crime and sections of the government, particularly the Slovak Intelligence Service (SIS).

Prime Minister Meciar's latest electoral stunts are unlikely to reassure those in the West who question his government's commitment to serious political debate. It is unclear whether any money was paid for the celebrities' visits, or how much.

Both the four-party opposition who hold a commanding lead in opinion polls, at around 58 per cent, compared with 35 per cent for the governing coalition, and Western diplomats say they do not discount last-minute dirty tricks by the Government to ensure it remains in power.

However Meciar has promised that the elections, which will be observed by international monitors, will be both free and fair, and that he will respect the result.

Confession fever spreads to the West

AMERICAN TIMES
LOS ANGELES

WHEN IT comes to fending off scandal, Los Angeles city councilman Richard Alatorre knows a thing or two - and we're not just talking about lies about sex.

Here is a man who, according to his accusers, has regularly been spotted with a crust of white powder under his nostrils, who has emerged from meetings with political allies and business associates with wads of \$100 bills in his hands, and who has an uncanny knack for extracting financial gain from ruinously expensive public business schemes - whether it is a loan on a new house or funds to launch charities run by his latest wife.

His life is being pored over by federal prosecutors, and embarrassing confessions have been extracted under oath. There is even another woman in his life - in his case a former secretary who is taking revenge

Alatorre's colleague, Gloria Molina, described him as "a very corrupt politician who has his bloody fingerprints all over this thing".

Next came Mr Alatorre's former secretary and lover, Linda Ward, who claimed not only that she saw her boss come out of meetings bulging with cash but that he would ask her to deposit the money at the bank for him. Mr Alatorre has since claimed that the cash was the residue of per diem payments he received when he was at the state legislature - even though he left Sacramento in 1985.

Federal investigations and subpoenas have been hurtling in Mr Alatorre's direction at great speed ever since. There is the case of the businessmen who say they have helped Mr Alatorre falsify a claim for a home loan in exchange for a public building contract. Or the collapse of a scheme to renovate a hotel in which the city invested more than \$10m - a scheme that also provided a \$100,000 donation to a youth charity in which Mr Alatorre's wife Angie played a leading role.

Most humiliating for Mr Alatorre, though, has been an acrimonious civil case which he and his wife are fighting for the custody of a niece currently living with them. To fend off counter-claims by the girl's father, they have been put in the embarrassing situation of trying to prove in court they have the character necessary to raise a child.

So far it has been a fiasco. Not only have all the financial scandals come out again, but Mr Alatorre has been forced to admit under oath that he has a past as both an alcoholic and a cocaine addict. (Mr Alatorre previously explained away the white residue about his nostrils as either "dandruff, denture powder or Doritos".)

When it comes to defending himself, Mr Alatorre has preferred to leave the talking to his lawyers. His friends have done more running for him, but even they have reasoned in less than moralistic terms. "Richard's not a stupid guy, and taking cash is stupid, stupid, stupid. And depositing that cash in a bank is nothing short of moronic. It's extremely hard to believe," one anonymous supporter argued to a magazine columnist recently.



Alatorre: Wads of cash

for being jilted by pouring her heart out to federal investigators.

Mr Alatorre has been called many things, few of them complimentary, and conversation among both supporters and vitriolic critics is rarely temperate. Jackal, vampire, snake - Mr Alatorre has been compared to the whole menagerie. It is a wonder, in fact, that he has survived a full 13 years as the city representative for East Los Angeles, and a long stint before that in the California state legislature.

Long considered unsalable as head of the city budget and finance committee, he is suddenly under attack on several fronts at once. First came the leaked revelation that a company run by political supporters of Mr Alatorre's had won a \$65m (£40m) contract for a proposed East LA underground rail line, even though two other companies had performed better in a technical survey. In the ensuing furor the scheme collapsed, the head of LA's Mass Transit Authority resigned and Mr

ANDREW GUMBEL



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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

SMG ponders higher bid for VCI

SCOTTISH MEDIA GROUP is considering raising its bid for VCI, the video reproduction company, to 130p share, trumping an 120p-a-share offer from retail giant Kingfisher. Analysts said SMG, which has already snapped up 26 per cent of VCI at 80p a share, could bid 130p for the remainder of the share capital and still end up paying less for VCI than Kingfisher, which tabled a bid worth £46.8m on Monday. SMG is expected to make a decision before the end of the week. A spokesman for the company refused to comment. VCI shares closed unchanged at 119.5p.

Millar's £90,000 dismissal claim



ANDREW MILLAR, the whistleblower sacked by British Biotech, is claiming around £90,000 for his wrongful dismissal plus undisclosed damages for libel from the drug development company, it emerged yesterday.

Mr Millar, the former head of clinical research, is being sued for breach of contract by British Biotech and yesterday submitted his defence in the High Court case. He was ousted in April after airing his concerns over two of the company's drugs to shareholders.

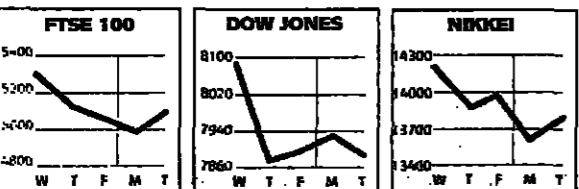
Tobacco firms fight EU ads ban

THE TOBACCO industry yesterday launched a legal challenge to European Union plans to ban tobacco advertising. The Tobacco Manufacturers' Association (TMA), which groups Gallaher, Imperial Tobacco and Rothmans, the leading UK cigarette makers, claimed that a ban would be "illegal" and breach European law. They will ask the High Court to refer an EU directive banning almost all tobacco ads from 2006 to the European Court of Justice. The TMA said that the European Commission had no powers to legislate on a public health issue. The anti-smoking pressure group ASH condemned the legal move as "pointless legal posturing".

Crestco hands £5m to customers

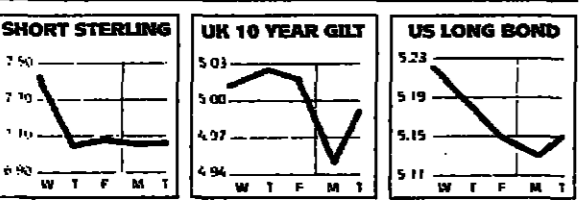
CRESTCO, the security settlements system, is to make a £5m rebate to its customers, which should benefit every stockbroker, custodian and bank dealing in the UK. Crestco's pre-tax profits doubled to £11.4m in the six months to June. The company will pay a first dividend.

STOCK MARKETS



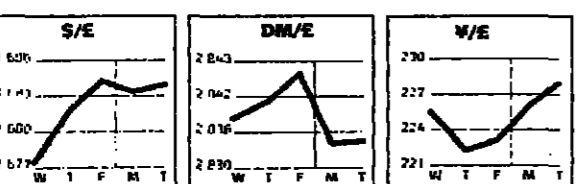
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk High	52 wk Low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5103.30	113.00	2.26	6183.70	4382.80	3.77
FTSE 250	4572.20	19.10	0.42	5970.90	4428.30	4.77
FTSE 350	2427.90	46.40	1.94	2969.10	2141.80	3.96
FTSE All Share	1364.37	42.58	3.12	1886.52	1106.59	3.87
FTSE SmallCap	2036.00	-1.70	-0.08	2793.80	2037.70	4.11
FTSE FTSE100	1142.90	-2.20	-0.19	1517.10	1140.20	4.48
FTSE AIM	861.80	2.10	0.24	1146.30	859.70	1.35
FTSE EBL00	829.82	23.22	2.88			
Dow Jones	7886.65	-39.91	-0.50	9367.84	6971.32	1.89
Nikkei	13789.81	192.51	1.42	18439.76	13580.72	1.11
Hong Kong	7373.51	203.28	2.84	15242.65	6544.29	4.33
Dax	4575.15	141.28	3.19	6217.83	3487.24	3.46

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	10 year	30 year	Long bond	Yr. Chg.
UK	7.41	0.12	7.06	-0.46	4.99	-1.63	-1.89
US	5.50	-0.22	5.28	-0.69	4.68	5.15	
Japan	0.42	-0.16	0.46	-0.18	0.92	-1.24	-1.37
Germany	3.48	0.18	3.58	-0.19	3.93	-1.60	-1.39

CURRENCIES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	10 year	30 year	Long bond	Yr. Chg.
Pound	1.6630	-0.042	1.6012				0.6246
Dollar	1.6630	-0.042	1.6012				0.6246
Swiss Franc	2.2372	+0.278	2.3735				1.7952
Yen	227.78	+43.12	195.41				121.76
Mark	102.70	+0.00	110.80				106.20

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago
Russ. Cpi (5)	14.14	-0.12	18.74
Gdp (5)	289.55	0.60	320.95
Share (5)	4.90	-0.11	4.71

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.7729	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.37
Austria (schillings)	19.38	Netherlands (guilders)	3.1048
Belgium (francs)	56.96	New Zealand (\$)	3.2142
Canada (\$)	2.5013	Norway (krone)	12.29
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8135	Portugal (escudos)	280.03
Denmark (krone)	10.57	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.1103
Finland (markka)	8.4541	Singapore (\$)	2.7554
France (francs)	9.2441	Spain (pesetas)	233.67
Germany (marks)	2.7672	South Africa (rand)	9.7653
Greece (drachma)	473.61	Sweden (krone)	13.07
Hong Kong (\$)	12.60	Switzerland (francs)	2.2809
Ireland (pounds)	1.1006	Thailand (bahts)	61.93
Indian (rupees)	65.50	Turkey (liras)	445272
Israel (shekels)	5.9448	USA (\$)	1.6380
Italy (lira)	2732		
Japan (yen)	221.46		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.0622		
Malta (lira)	0.6159		

Goldman partners call for float to be delayed

THE FLOTATION of Wall Street investment bank Goldman Sachs is looking increasingly uncertain, with a significant minority of senior partners calling for the listing to be delayed or called off because of volatile financial markets.

The doubts have been compounded by problems with the 100 or so retired partners who have objected to attempts to

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

renegotiate a formula guaranteeing the value of their shareholdings in the light of the fall of 40 to 50 per cent in investment bank shares since the financial crisis broke in August. This has wiped up to \$15bn off the \$30bn value of the bank at the market peak in July.

Goldman's 300 partners are scheduled to meet early next month to finalise the terms of the listing. In the meantime, senior management has been left in charge of the flotation.

However, the confidence of Goldman's co-chairmen, Jon Corzine and Henry Paulson, who until last week were insisting the float would go ahead, has begun to ebb as opponents

have seized on the stock market fall as vindication of their earlier opposition. An investment bank source said last night: "The talk is that they will pull it."

The problems with the so-called limited partners arose over a deal struck when the plan to float was made earlier this year. Exceptionally, they were to be guaranteed 1.55 times the book value of the bank

on listing. However, Mr Corzine has been seeking to renegotiate these terms to reflect the fact that if the value of their holdings remained static while the overall value of the bank fell, they would end up with an unacceptably large share of Goldman's total capital. This would hamper attempts to redistribute shares Goldman's "marzipan layer" - senior executives

just below partnership level - which was one of the key justifications advanced by Mr Corzine for changing the structure of Wall Street's last sizeable partnership firm.

With only 10 per cent of the stock to be sold to outsiders, and staff barred from selling for three to five years, the bank has insisted all along that the listing is not about raising cash.



Barclaycard's Northampton HQ yesterday. The UK's first credit cards were issued there in 1966, now it will suffer 400 job losses. Keith Dobney

Barclays slashes 1,100 jobs as card war rages

BARCLAYS BANK yesterday announced that it is cutting 1,100 jobs at Barclaycard, blaming fierce competition in the credit-card business.

The bank said that more than a quarter of the 4,400 jobs at Barclaycard would be cut to improve efficiency by introducing advanced computer systems designed to enhance customer service.

Northampton, where Barclays issued the UK's first credit cards in 1966, will suffer 400 job losses, while Barclaycard's 70-strong Birmingham branch is likely to close completely. Other jobs will be lost at Kirby, Manchester and Teesside.

Bob Potts, chief executive of

BY ANDREW VERITY

Barclaycard, said he "very much regretted" the job cuts. But he insisted it was necessary to ward off aggressive competition from new entrants, many of them American banks seeking to penetrate the European market.

"We have a strong business but we cannot afford to ignore the tough competition. We need to make the changes while we are doing well. This will enable us to introduce them over a reasonable period of time," he said.

The bank has been warning unions of the need for job cuts for 18 months. But staff were still shocked at the scale of the cut-

backs. Susan Hamilton-Smith, national officer of Unifi, the finance union at Barclays, said: "Staff have been aware for some time that jobs may be on the line, but this is really bad news."

Mr Potts said he was "very aware that many employees will be extremely concerned at the news they've heard today", but refused to rule out compulsory redundancies. He said staff would be treated with dignity and helped to find new jobs.

The cuts go hand-in-hand with a £30m investment in new technology designed to automate basic functions such as allocating a credit limit to new customers. Barclays Bank, which gets 12.5 per cent of its

profits from Barclaycard, has already spent £100m installing a new computer system.

Barclaycard remains the most popular UK credit card, with 9.4 million cards in issue, but in recent years its market share has dipped below 30 per cent. It has felt increasingly threatened by US card companies wanting to establish themselves in the UK as a springboard to move into the rest of Europe.

Low-cost US operations such as MBNA and Household Finance Corporation have already succeeded in issuing more than a million cards each by mail-shooting customers and advertising lower rates of interest.

An explosion of "affinity cards" has disrupted the effective marketing of credit cards. The Star Trek Fan Club, Peugeot, Sainsbury's and the Elvis Presley Fan Club are just four groups offering their own product. Bells and whistles have been added such as rebates on gas and electricity, money off on Ford cars, and cheaper mobile phone charges.

But while Barclays said the job cuts were driven by competition, it resisted suggestions that it would cut its annual percentage rate - one of the highest at 22.9 per cent. Shares in Barclays rose ahead of the market from 1063 to 1090.

Outlook, page 19

City spin doctors sell out for £27m

ONE of the City's best known PR men, Tony Carlisle of Dewe Rogerson, was 58m richer yesterday after the agency agreed to be taken over by a rival.

The £27m takeover by Incepta, which owns the financial PR company Citigate, will also see 40 senior staff of Dewe Rogerson sharing a £5.3m shares windfall. Two other founding directors of Dewe Rogerson, Roddy Dewe and Nico Rogerson, will share £7m while the fourth founder, Johnny de Upaugh, is thought to be walking away with around £2m.

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

Mr Carlisle, who joined Dewe Rogerson in 1970, will join the board of the enlarged agency with responsibility for business development and client services. Mr Dewe and Mr de Upaugh are both retiring while Mr Rogerson will act as a consultant to the new group focusing on New York and Hong Kong.

The share awards for the 40 top staff will range in value from £50,000 to £200,000 depending on seniority and experience.

The remaining 290 employees of Dewe Rogerson will each receive shares worth £750. The shares will be dispensed in three equal instalments over a two-year period in order to retain staff following the takeover.

The enlarged group will trade as Citigate Dewe Rogerson and will have 1,200 clients and fee income of £55m, putting it among the UK's top three PR and advertising groups alongside Shandwick and Lowe Bell.

Incepta is paying £13.3m in cash and £11.1m in shares for Dewe Rogerson. In addition

Dewe Rogerson is repurchasing a further £2.5m of preference shares from its four founders.

David Wright, Incepta's chief executive, said it was paying one times Dewe Rogerson's fee income. The deal would be earnings enhancing in the first year. Dewe Rogerson built up its business on the back of the last government's privatisations, advising on flotations of BT, British Gas, BE British Steel and the water and electricity companies. Citigate's clients include Charles Schwab, the bus group Henlys and Granada.



Tony Carlisle: Gets £6m and a seat on new board

William McDonough, a US Federal Reserve governor, said the balance of economic risks had shifted from inflation towards inadequate growth, reigniting market hopes of an early easing in US interest rates.

On co-ordinated cuts, however, Mr McDonough said there were "sufficient differences in the conditions of G7 countries that a co-ordinated cut in interest rates probably would not directly serve the purpose of sustained economic growth in each of the countries."

Outlook, page 19

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

BLUE CHIPS staged a comeback. Footsie reclaimed its position above the crucial 5,000 points level with a 113 gain to 5,103.3. Trading was busy with share turnover nudging one billion. Supporting shares had a quiet session.

Take-over stories swirled with Reed International, the media group, and GRE, the insurer, likely targets. Reed, up 31.25p to 534.25p, was said to be in the sights of a US group and GRE, up 9p to 258p, was regarded as a candidate for Allied Dunbar.

Derek Pain, page 23

NEW YORK

AN EARLY rally on Wall Street petered out on fears that US corporate profits would be eroded as global economies slow down. As European markets closed, the Dow Jones index was down 60.25 at 7,873.

Investors around the world are increasingly planning their hopes on a US interest-rate cut. Some hope that the Federal Reserve may lower rates on 29 September and are looking for any hint of this from the Fed chairman, Alan Greenspan, in his Senate address on economic issues today.

TOKYO

STOCKS REBOUNDED from a 12-year low on expectations that Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi will be pressured to promise more measures to lift the economy.

Drug makers and railways led the rally, as investors favoured "safe haven" industries. The Nikkei 225 index rose 1.42 per cent to 13,789.81. Nomura Securities, Japan's largest brokerage, fell on reports it will have to inject \$380m into a US affiliate. Three of Japan's big five chipmakers - Toshiba, Hitachi and NEC - have cut their earnings forecasts in the past month.

HONG KONG

THE HANG Seng index posted a 2.3 per cent gain to close up 203.3 at 7,373.5, with traders saying most of the gains were prompted by short covering after Monday night's rally on Wall Street caught investors by surprise.

HSBC, HongKong Telecom and Hutchison Whampoa, which together make up almost half of the index, paced gains. Meanwhile, Hong Kong's Monetary Authority said it spent \$8.9bn of its foreign-currency reserves to buy stocks and futures last month, less than many analysts estimated.

FRANKFURT

THE XETRA DAX rallied 110.1 points to close at 4,549.23 although traders warned that the gains were largely due to short covering by investors who had expected markets to respond more negatively to US President Bill Clinton's testimony on Monday. "There are so many things which are still a potential danger," one dealer said. "I think we could still see 4,000 points."

Banks recovered some of the value they shed this month, while carmakers BMW and Volkswagen benefited from a firmer dollar.

25 10 1998

Duisenberg is too leisurely by half

WIM DUISENBERG, president of the European Central Bank, has decided on one thing at least – that the Queen's head, or any other national emblem for that matter, will be erased from Britain's bank notes should we opt to join the single currency. So this is the sort of trivia Mr Duisenberg is occupying his time with, is it?

With just three and a bit months left to kick off time for the single currency, not much else seems to have been settled at all, to judge by the ECB president's evidence yesterday to the European Parliament's monetary affairs subcommittee, and to the dismay of many already signed up to the euro. The Queen's head must go even if everything else is still up in the air, seems to be about the sum of it.

Thus it has not yet been decided to what interest rate the eleven countries forming the Euro should converge, though the hint seems to be towards the lowest common denominator, regardless of the possibly disastrous effects of this on the boom economies of Italy, Ireland and Spain. Nor has it been decided



OUTLOOK

ed whether this convergence should take place in one jump or through a series of little moves.

Then there's the little matter of precisely how monetary policy should be determined, whether by reference to money supply, as in Germany, or an inflation target, as in Britain.

The ECB has said it should be a mixture of the two, but has yet to explain the proportions. And finally, the ECB has to decide which rate of inflation – which index – it is going to use for inflation targeting. Given the imminence of the single currency, it might be thought that all

these matters require rather more urgent attention than they seem to be getting.

According to Mr Duisenberg everything is proceeding according to schedule. At best this seems a dangerously leisurely one. It is perhaps just as well for Britain that we are not entering in the first round after all, for it is surely bizarre that such important matters of detail remain undecided so close to D day. A general that went into battle so ill prepared could reasonably expect slaughter.

By rights it should be Mr Duisenberg's head on the chopper, not the Queen's. Perhaps unfortunately, it seems rather easier to behead the queen than a president of the ECB. Mr Duisenberg cannot officially be removed until the end of his eight year term in 2006.

Free Internet

WELL DONE Dixons, for being the first to offer an all singing and dancing internet service for free. The days when £10-£15 a month was the cost of being connected to the Web

are finally over, it would seem. But hold on a moment: it's not free, is it? As anyone with children or an anorak as a lodger will know, the effect of being wired to the Internet is to double your telephone bill, for every three minutes on the net is the cost of a local call. And boy does that surfing add up. This is why Dixons, or rather Energis, which is providing the service to Dixons, is able to do it for free.

What Energis, the telecoms group, gets from the deal is a share of each call terminated, which given that Freeserve is almost bound to become one of the biggest service providers in the UK, could be a quite considerable source of revenue. On top of that it will get advertising from Dixons and others that pay to be on screen, while there could also be big money to be made out of electronic commerce.

All in all, it's a wonder that so many service providers, including astonishingly the internet service offered by BT, have been able to get away with charging for so long. For telephone companies, the extra traffic provided by the internet should be as much payment as they need.

One reason they have got away with it is that the Internet industry has been imported from the US, where local calls are free and service providers thus have to charge a subscription in order to recoup their costs. Here in Britain the economics can be made to work the other way round.

All of which goes to show how far telephony tariffs have to go to become competitive with the US. It is still not possible to pay a flat rate rental in the UK for unlimited local telephone use, nor is there any likelihood of this happening while BT's local loop is so interwoven with the rest of the network. Furthermore, no competitor is going to risk starting a price war with BT by taking the initiative.

So, for the time being, ordinary domestic customers will simply have to live with much higher incremental costs for Internet usage than their American counterparts, notwithstanding the new free Internet service being offered by Dixons and Energis. Something, perhaps, at which Gordon Brown's competitiveness review should take a long hard look.

Barclaycard

THE CREDIT-CARD business is money for old rope. How could it be otherwise when base rates are 7.5 per cent and yet card issuers can get away with charging their customers compound rates of 23 per cent? Barclaycard has sat at the top of the pile for the last 30 years, growing fat on a mixture of customer inertia and competitive apathy.

Like other industry leaders, however, Barclaycard is finding that the world doesn't stand still after all.

Ten years ago there were 80 credit cards in circulation and Barclaycard only had to worry about serious competition from Access, Visa and Mastercard. Now there are 1,300 varieties on offer. Even Guide Dogs for the Blind has one. More seriously, the supermarkets, direct banks and US finance houses have arrived on the scene with rates to make the eyes water.

Barclaycard retorts that it is still good value for money, pointing out that two third of its customers clear their accounts before they have to pay interest. But when the

payments do start they snowball painfully. For the increasing numbers who live in a state of perpetual debt, a low APR and shorter interest free period makes better economic sense.

Barclaycard has tried to stem the tide of defections by tying up Visa so that it no longer markets itself independently. It has also led the way in offering extras like cheap electricity, air fares and telephone bills. But having to spend £9,000 to earn a free toaster is the kind of offer most of us can decline.

Finally, Barclaycard is grasping the nettle and making its staff pay for its increasing vulnerability. A quarter of the workforce or 1,100 jobs are, to use the company's quaint phraseology, going to "fall away", as Barclaycard replaces labour with new technology.

Aside from the cost-cutting, however, there is not a single mention of any new strategy to head off the competition. The latest fall in profits suggests that Barclaycard's spectacular margins are already under pressure. If it wants to survive at all long term, it may have to think of cutting rates as well as jobs.

Murdoch and Saudi prince close in on German TV deal

PLANS TO create a pan-European television group involving Rupert Murdoch, Silvio Berlusconi, Germany's Leo Kirch and Saudi Prince Alwaleed bin Talal are nearing completion.

Reports from the annual sales conference of Mediaset, Mr Berlusconi's media group, suggest that the Italian former prime minister, Mr Murdoch and Prince Alwaleed will invest \$2bn in return for up to 25 per cent of Mr Kirch's privately-owned media empire.

Tarak Ben Ammar, an adviser to Prince Alwaleed and a member of the Mediaset board, said the negotiations were going ahead. "The Kirch Group rep-

resents the only real opportunity in Europe," he added.

Earlier this week Fedele Confalonieri, the Mediaset chairman, confirmed for the first time that a deal was on the table. "Our company was one of the first broadcasters to attempt to build a pan-European operation in the 1980s, but the time wasn't ripe yet," he said. "Now we're sitting at the table again."

Meanwhile Jan Mojto, a Kirch executive, said: "We're at the last stage of the game and we'll know next year how things turn out."

However, a spokeswoman

for Mr Murdoch's News International said suggestions that a deal was close were "speculation".

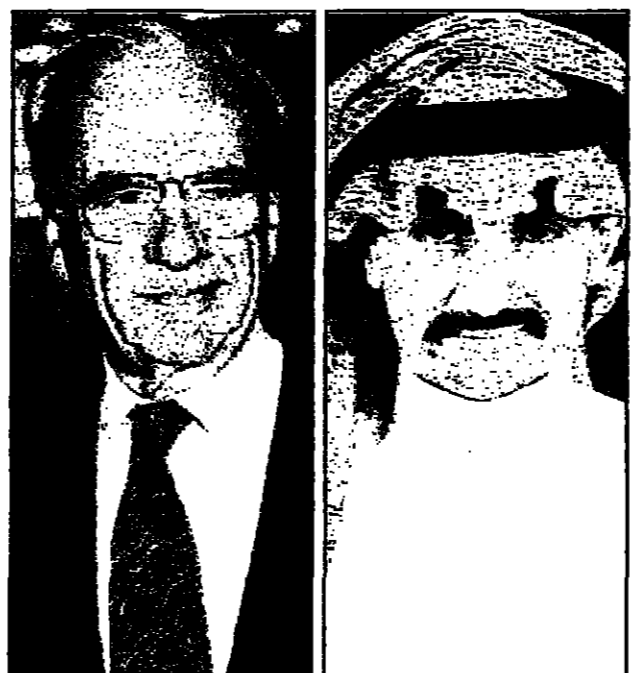
If successful, the agreement would create a pan-European television group with interests in Germany, Italy, France and Spain. It would also be able to tap into the sporting and film rights held by British Sky Broadcasting, the satellite television group in which Mr Murdoch holds a 41 per cent stake. The alliance would create a powerful company capable of taking on Canal Plus, the French giant that has a stranglehold on much of Europe's pay-TV market.

Mr Kirch's group is in des-

perate need of a cash injection as it struggles to fund a plethora of pay-TV and publishing projects. A mooted television joint venture with Bertelsmann, the rival media operator, collapsed earlier this year after the European Commission imposed strict controls on the alliance.

Mr Murdoch is also keen to establish a foothold in the German pay-television market, which until now has been impenetrable for other media companies.

Prince Alwaleed already has a close association with Mr Murdoch, having bought shares in the publicly-quoted News Corporation last year.



Rupert Murdoch (left) and Prince Alwaleed bin Talal are set to invest \$2bn each in Leo Kirch's media empire

Jobs will go in Tarmac shake-up

TARMAC yesterday became the latest UK company to announce job cuts as a result of deteriorating markets.

The company blamed a fall in orders in the UK and overseas for a radical shake-up of its engineering business which will lead to dozens of redundancies.

Tarmac is to merge its civil engineering and international units, with the closure of the international division's head office in Kent. The businesses, which employ 7,800 people worldwide, will be run from the Wolverhampton headquarters of the civil engineering division. Although most job losses are expected from administrative staff, some plant workers were

also set to lose their jobs, said sources close to the company.

Sir Neville Simms, group chief executive, did not specify the number of redundancies but said the merger would "inevitably lead to job losses". He said the restructuring would yield cost savings of up to £5m a year and would help the company weather the downturn.

Sir Neville said UK orders had fallen largely as a result of the Government's decision to slash road building.

The company reported a 29 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £49.7m on turnover up 5 per cent to £1.51bn.

Investment column, page 23

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News Analysis: Supermarkets may advertise cheaper food, but a price war is not in their interests

Tesco to serve up new jobs for 10,000

TESCO YESTERDAY claimed that an all-out supermarket price war was unlikely, although it conceded that the food sector was becoming more competitive and that sales growth was slowing.

Reporting a 6 per cent rise in first-half profits to £371m, Tesco said its like-for-like sales had grown by 4.3 per cent in the period, slowing to a 2.5 per cent rise in the first five weeks of the second half.

Tesco said it was continuing its strategy of offering lower prices on its Value range for customers who wanted to trade down to cheaper products, while also extending its Tesco Finest range of more expensive, quality foods.

"There is a slowdown but I wouldn't call it a major recession and it is nothing like 1991-92," said David Reid, Tesco's deputy chairman. "It is not the end of the world, but the difference is that consumers' psyches can change."

The supermarket group is pressing ahead with a £500m expansion programme this year that will see it create 10,000 new jobs, or 6,000 full-time equivalents. The positions will be created through new store openings, longer trading hours and store refurbishments: 22 new stores will be opened, while the number of stores offering 24-hour opening will rise from 24 to 64. Tesco said it had increased its market share from 14.6 per cent to 15.2 per cent, according to recent industry figures.

While Tesco's figures were ahead of expectations and its sales growth ahead of the industry average of just 1 per cent, the outlook for Britain's high-flying supermarket sector

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

has become increasingly uncertain.

It is in the midst of an Office of Fair Trading investigation which will decide if the major supermarkets exploit their huge buying power to make excess profits. Inflation has all but disappeared, making sales growth more difficult to achieve.

Also, the threat of a price war has reappeared after a long period of relative stability. Asda and Sainsbury's have launched price promotions in the last few days, and Tesco has said it too will cut prices.

Tesco yesterday took issue with all of these concerns. On the OFT inquiry, the company says it believes there is no case to answer.

Responding to accusations that the supermarkets used their power to cut prices paid to farmers for meat, but failed to pass those savings on to consumers, Tesco's finance director, Andrew Higginson, said: "We make no money on meat." He said the difference between farm prices and those that are charged at the supermarket check-outs was accounted for by improved meat processing arrangements and other cost increases in the food chain.

Mr Higginson said the supermarkets were facing a cost squeeze as food price inflation disappeared while other costs, such as wage settlements, continued to rise.

Analysts agreed that the OFT inquiry was unlikely to lead to any action. Clive Vaughan of Verdict, the retail consultants, said: "We have a premium food retail sector in

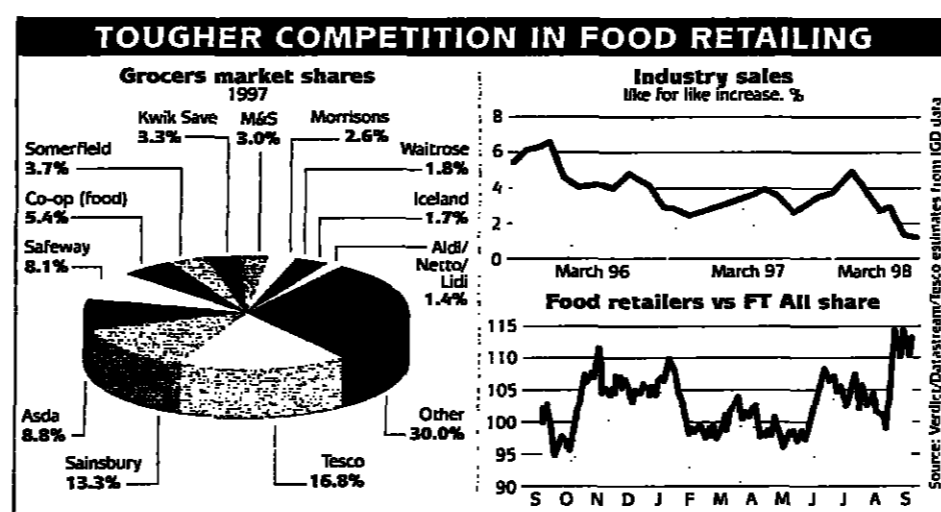


Tesco, whose chief executive, Terry Leahy, yesterday visited a branch in Cheapside, London, reported a slowdown in sales Neville Elder

this country, because that is what consumers want. They do not want to shop in big cheap sheds. They had that 20 years ago with people like Tesco, and it failed."

Although an internal Treasury report has showed that British consumers pay higher prices than Americans for food and drink, experts say there are several obvious reasons for this. One is that America is one extremely large single market with no import duties to increase prices. Other factors include lower land prices, which mean lower store rent costs, and far lower vehicle fuel prices, which cuts the cost of distribution.

Further support for the supermarkets' position is expected to come in the next few days in a McKinsey report on global competitiveness. It is thought that the report will single out UK food retailing as one of the most efficient and competitive sectors. Analysts said a food price



war was unlikely because it is not in the supermarket operators' interests to launch one.

"These latest price campaigns are really just posturing," says Clive Vaughan of Verdict. "They have switched their advertising campaigns from quality and range to price to show the competition au-

thorities that they are offering good value. It all has a political background."

Paul Smiddy, food retail analyst at Credit Lyonnais, agreed. "The odds must still be on the OFT exonerating the big supermarkets," he said. The OFT is due to deliver its preliminary report in December.

Although trading conditions in the mature UK food market are now becoming more difficult, Tesco again highlighted its global ambitions yesterday.

The company said that the expansion of rivals such as Wal-Mart of America, Carrefour of France and Metro of Germany made it important for

UK groups such as Tesco to be able to benefit from similar economies of scale.

"We would welcome the opportunity to become larger in the UK so we can compete on the world stage," said Mr Reid. "Otherwise they [the major global rivals] will come here and buy up some of our companies."

Tesco's overseas stores at the moment account for just 2 per cent of group sales. The supermarkets in Poland, Hungary and Czech Republic recorded a £5m loss on sales of £130m.

The Lotus outlets in Thailand, acquired earlier this year, have recorded a £1m loss on sales of £30m since they became part of the group in May.

Tesco's group sales rose by 7.2 per cent to £2.2bn in the first half of the year. The interim dividend was raised by 6 per cent to 1.25p per share.

The shares, which have fallen from their 202p peak in July, rose 8p to 169p.

IN BRIEF

Powerscreen posts £48m loss

POWERSCREEN International, the troubled Northern Ireland-based engineer, plunged into the red due to a big loss at one of its subsidiaries.

A £50.2m loss at Mathro, the agricultural machinery subsidiary being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office for accounting irregularities, contributed to a £47.6m group loss in the year to the end of March. Last year the company posted a £15.8m profit.

Leaving Mulberry

MULBERRY, the luxury goods maker whose shares have been hit by profits warnings, said yesterday that Colin Ingram, its retail director, is to leave and will not be replaced. Mulberry's retail functions will report direct to the board. Demand for Mulberry's leather luggage has been hit by the strong pound and the economic crisis in Asia. Earlier this year Mulberry reported a £1m loss.

Dexion merger

DEXION, the materials handling and storage systems business owned by the private investment group, Apax and Partners, is to merge with Constructor.

The new company, Constructor Dexion Group, will have sales of £350m. The group will be 8 per cent owned by Dexion management, 42 per cent by Apax and 50 per cent by Constructor's owner, the Norwegian group Aker.

Order for Airbus

IBERIA is to acquire up to 11 Airbus planes valued at about \$1.4bn (£830m), helping Spain's state-controlled airline to prepare for sale in 1999. Iberia ordered six long-haul A340s, with options on another five, for delivery between 1999 and 2003.

German buyout

ELECTRA FLEMING has launched one of Germany's biggest venture-capital deals by backing the management buyout of retailer Deutsche Woolworth for DM950m (£340m). Electra Fleming is investing DM146m for a 90 per cent stake, with most of the cost financed by debt.

COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div
African Gold (F)	1.1bn (0.67bn)	-0.05bn (0.25bn)	-0.05p (0.25p)	nil	-	-
Amec (F)	25.2m (15.7m)	3.55m (2.3m)	10.72p (7.33p)	3.4p (3.31p)	23.11.98	28.10.98
Bredon (F)	8.1m (6.9m)	2.15m (1.77m)	5.96p (4.21p)	2.31p (2.10p)	30.10.98	05.10.98
Clinical Computing (F)	1.6m (1.4m)	0.205m (0.078m)	0.8p (0.3p)	nil	-	-
Girus Group (F)	5.7m (1.5m)	-4.0m (-2.5m)	-14.9p (-14.3p)	nil	-	-
ICM Computer Grp (F)	35.1m (28.7m)	3.43m (2.51m)	8.7p (4.2p)	1.75p (-)	26.11.98	28.09.98
Secure Trust Banking (F)	-	5.4m (5.06m)	24.0p (23.0p)	8.0p (-)	06.11.98	23.09.98
Syner (F)	137.8m (88.6m)	3.75m (2.30m)	11.6p (6.7p)	2.6p (-)	27.10.98	28.09.98
Tarmac (F)	1.4bn (1.3bn)	49.7m (38.6m)	3.2p (2.5p)	3.0p (3.0p)	02.12.98	28.09.98
Tesco (F)	6.2bn (7.7bn)	371.0m (350.0m)	3.87p (3.70p)	1.25p (1.18p)	30.11.98	28.09.98
Tollan (F)	9.9m (6.7m)	0.875m (0.457m)	1.5p (1.0p)	1.5p (1.0p)	16.11.98	23.09.98
United Industries (F)	30.2m (19.5m)	0.59m (1.42m)	1.0p (2.71p)	0.9p (0.85p)	20.11.98	19.10.98

(F) - Final (I) - Interim

Russia 'misused World Bank \$1.4bn'

ALLEGATIONS that Russia squandered, and even stole, international loans intensified yesterday with a fresh claim of wrong-doing - this time, that it mis-spent more than \$1bn of World Bank funds.

Russia's Audit Chamber added its voice to a growing chorus of concern about the fate of billions of dollars which were lent to Moscow in a vain effort to avert a melt-down, including the first tranche of a \$2.8bn IMF-supervised rescue package.

The chamber, a budget watchdog under parliament, has concluded that the government misused a \$1.4bn World Bank loan by channelling the money into its cash-starved budget and into servicing foreign debts, instead of on structural reforms, as intended. A senior official also claimed that an audit of the Russian Central Bank had uncovered "gross violations" of the law.

Although the chamber has a record of criticising the government with little result, it is far from alone. Russia's chief auditor, Vasilyan Sokolov, has said that the Central Bank stole or wasted billions of dollars from the IMF - a claim which prompted a call from Tony Blair for an overhaul of the fund and the World Bank.

Russia's procurator-general has also announced an investigation into the bank, saying that preliminary findings suggested irregularities.

The allegations diminish still further Russia's chances of getting any more funds out of the world's lenders. In particular, they will further jeopardise the next \$4.8bn instalment of the now discredited rescue package from the IMF. No lesser figure than Helmut Kohl, Boris Yeltsin's best friend (and biggest creditor) in the West, has said that further funds cannot be justified.

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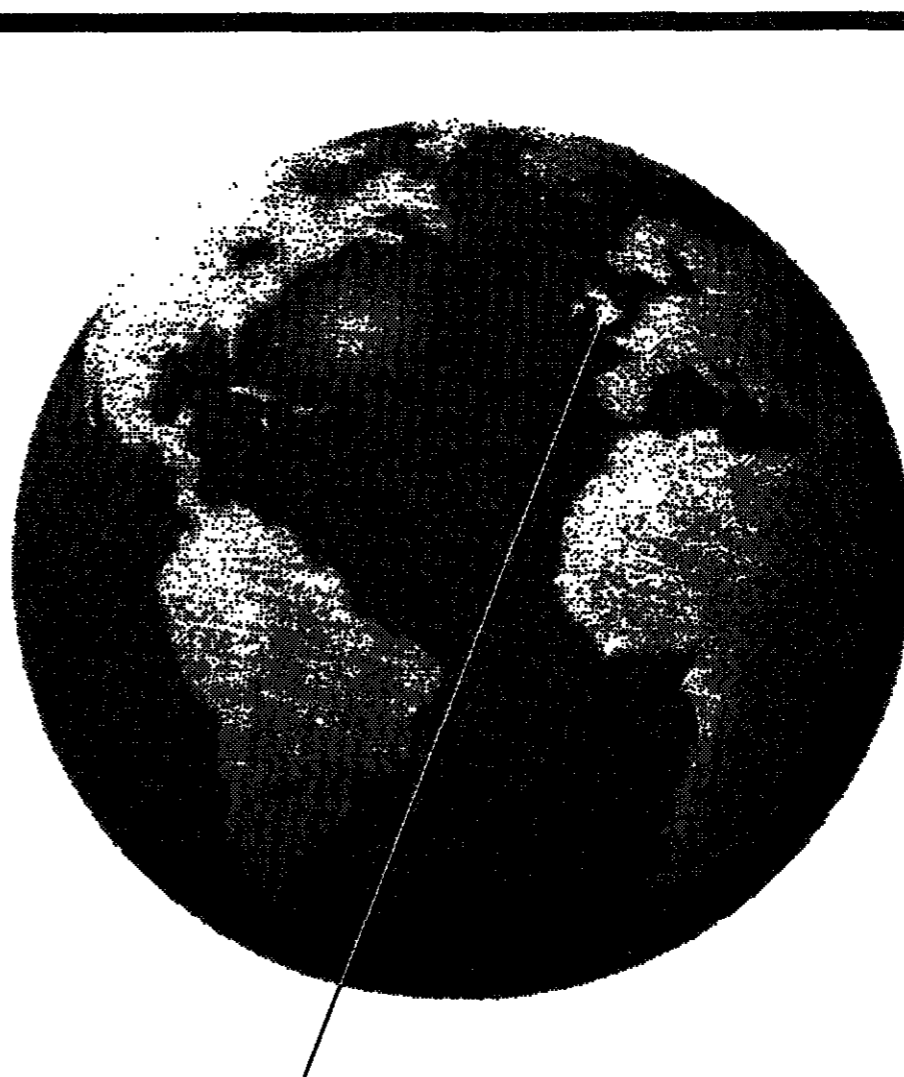
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(Source: 1994, 1996, 1998 Forum of Private Business biennial survey).



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EXCHANGE RATES

SPOT RATES

DERE
PAIN

The Reed story was bizarre, with even computer behemoth Microsoft dragged into the equation. Somebody got hold of a yarn that Morgan Stanley was working on a huge media deal, and Reed was designated to be the target. An array of computer and media groups were paraded as the possible predator and Reed shares firmed 31.25p to 534.25p in busy trading.

It was very much a Footsie session with the rest of the market lagging behind. The mid cap index did manage a 19.1 point gain to 4,579.2

Energy, described by Henderson Crosthwaite as "one of the best strategic players in the UK telecoms industry", jumped 32.5p to 722.5p. Analyst Chris Godsmark says the recent share fall, from a 1,123.5p peak, is a buying opportunity. In a 28-page review, he sees losses coming down from £52m this year to £9.9m in 2000. Last night

full control of the Cellnet mobile telephone concern, buying Securicor's 40 per cent stake.

General Electric Co sparked 22p up to 433p after Warburg Dillon Read made positive noises. Shell, after last week's shock over heavy

The withdrawal of Vivendi's attempt to place 4.7 per cent of Telecom Communications on

usual activity in some smaller shares. PDFM, the fund manager was responsible. In what it described as an "administration move to pool our existing smaller company shares into one fund" it traded around 90 million shares in a

Monday there were fears that the group was still a long way from clinching a deal.

Longmead, a bathroom accessories group, was the day's big loser, off 36 per cent to 58.5p following a profits warning.

SEAQ VOLUME: 979.7 million
SEAQ TRADES: 54,359
CHEX INDEX: 111.66

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

Sceptics point out that seasonal factors will make for a worse second half. The UK economic downturn also means price rises in building materials are harder to sustain. Tarmac's shares, up 2.5p to 87.5p yesterday, trade on nine-times forward earnings of around £135m. Given the uncertainties about Tarmac's markets, they are no more than a bolt but any further weakness is an opportunity to buy.

Turnover
Em

Period	Construction services	Building materials
1997 H1	820	610
1998 H1	860	630

Share price
pence

Year	Share price (pence)
93	140
94	200
95	120
96	110
97	130
98	120

But boring as it sounds, this might just be a good defensive stock. Its management seems to think so. Yesterday the company bought one million of its own shares. The company's share price shifted up slightly from 86p to 88.5p - although not much more than the market.

Metalrax - named after its shelving business - is man-

Shelves will be one thing to be replaced in the £1bn-plus upgrading of school facilities. Demand for household goods may dwindle if the property sector slumps - but there is still a steady stream of demand. Interim profits were in line at £6.31m, up 10 per cent from £5.73m, causing Credit Lyonnais to forecast full-year earn-

Still, with house broker Henry Cooke forecasting profits of £4m next year the shares trade on an undemanding earnings multiple of 14. In a largely over-valued sector, they are cheap.

BY JOHN
WILLCOCK

told Warburg's Swiss owners yet? Standby for Credit Suisse NatWest ...

I trust photographers will be allowed in.

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
E. Germany	1.6657	1.0000	Orman	0.6490	0.3850
Finland	1.9815	1.1814	Pakistan	84.265	44.200
France	199.15	8.2719	Philippines	74.508	42.400
China	13.995	8.2719	Poland	0.6031	3.5790
Chad Rep	57.068	30.800	Russia	6.1351	8.8395
Cyprus	5.7545	4.4137	Saudi	27614.8	16381.8
Ghana	39.76	233.7	South Korea	2359.6	1399.40
Hungary	270.36	233.7	Taiwan	68.302	35.500
India	71.659	42.510	Thailand	40.252	40.550
Indonesia	18879.8	1190.9	UK	409536	276180
Kuwait	10.161	0.3050	UAE	6.132	8.8738
Malaysia	151.71	80.000			

MONEY MARKET RATES							
	Overnight Bid Offer	1 week Bid Offer	1 month Bid Offer	3 months Bid Offer	6 months Bid Offer	1 year Bid Offer	
Treasury Bills			7.30 7.20	7.20 7.10			
LIBOR							
Domestic Depos	7.0010-0.00	7.38 7.50	7.31 7.38	7.28 7.34	7.19 7.25	6.97 0.03	
Eurocurrency Depos	7.31 7.44	7.31 7.44	7.34 7.41	7.31 7.38	7.22 7.28	6.94 7.00	
Eurodollar Bills			7.25 7.21	7.18 7.10	6.97 6.90		
Eurodollar CDs			7.37 7.28	7.34 7.26	7.20 7.12	6.95 6.85	
Eurodollar CDs			5.48	5.41	5.30		
ECU Deposits			4.09 4.22	4.09 4.16	3.50 3.54		

[illegible]

White/Sage	Freight	White	CBOT	Soya Beans
LUFFE \$/tonne	LUFFE \$/t000 lb	LUFFE \$/tonne	CBOT Cene/\$40	CBOT \$/50 lb
Dec89 211.30	Nov89 915.00	Dec89 71.25	Dec89 193.25	Dec89 30.50
Nov89 211.80	Nov89 978.00	Nov89 73.35	Nov89 205.25	Nov89 32.00
Nov89 224.90	Nov89 959.00	Jan90 74.20	Dec89 205.25	Jan90 32.50
Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0

OTHER SPOTS AT 5:30PM							
Oct	Live Cattle	(CME) \$/400 lb	61.55	Dec	White Mide	(S&P) \$/100 lb	676.00
Feb	Pork, Belties		66.65	Sep	Rubber	CRB \$/ 5 kg	98.00
Sep	Orange Juice	(CTN) \$/5 lb	106.80	Dec	Corn	(CTN) \$/500 lb	26.10
Sep	Milk	(CME) \$/100 lb	11.50	Dec	Corn Palm	(CME) \$/25 lb	73.75
Dec	Dec	(CME) \$/40	115.25	Sep	Soy Oil		27.50
Nov	Pean	(M&B) \$/20 lb	311.00	Sep	Woolsten Yarn	(TCM) \$/500kg	1255.00

	Overnight Bid Offer	1 week Bid Offer	1 month Bid Offer	3 months Bid Offer	6 months Bid Offer	1 year Bid Offer
Treasury Bills			7.30 7.20	7.30 7.10		
LIBOR						
Domestic Depos	7.00/10.00	7.38 7.50	7.31 7.38	7.28 7.34	7.19 7.25	6.97/7.03
Swimming Depos	7.31/7.44	7.31 7.44	7.34 7.41	7.31 7.38	7.22 7.28	6.94/7.00
Eligible Bank Bills			7.29 7.21	7.18 7.10	6.97 6.90	
Swingline CDs			7.37 7.29	7.34 7.25	7.20 7.12	6.95/6.85
Swingline CDs			5.48	5.41	5.30	
ECU Deposits			4.05 4.22	4.03 4.15	3.90 3.94	

Brent: Crude Oil (\$/barrel) Gas Oil (\$/tonne)				WTI Crude Oil (\$/barrel) Products (\$/tonne)			
Brnt:	Crude:	Gas Oil:	WTI:	Crude:	Gas Oil:	Spot:	Crude:
Jan:	15.47	50.29	Jan:	15.39	50.29	Jan:	15.47
Feb:	15.47	50.29	Feb:	15.39	50.29	Feb:	15.47
Mar:	15.47	50.29	Mar:	15.39	50.29	Mar:	15.47
Apr:	15.47	50.29	Apr:	15.39	50.29	Apr:	15.47
May:	15.47	50.29	May:	15.39	50.29	May:	15.47
Jun:	15.47	50.29	Jun:	15.39	50.29	Jun:	15.47
Jul:	15.47	50.29	Jul:	15.39	50.29	Jul:	15.47
Aug:	15.47	50.29	Aug:	15.39	50.29	Aug:	15.47
Sep:	15.47	50.29	Sep:	15.39	50.29	Sep:	15.47
Oct:	15.47	50.29	Oct:	15.39	50.29	Oct:	15.47
Nov:	15.47	50.29	Nov:	15.39	50.29	Nov:	15.47
Dec:	15.47	50.29	Dec:	15.39	50.29	Dec:	15.47

LUFFE	S'ronce	LUFFS \$106/pk	LUFFE	S'ronce	CBOT Cents/bshi	CBOT	\$/sh
Oct/Nov	211.30	Nov89	71.25	Sept89	193.25	Nov89	35.50
Dec89	218.80	Nov90	72.35	Sept89	206.25	Nov89	37.50
Mar90	224.30	Nov90	74.20	Sept89	205.35	Jan90	32.50
Val#:	0	Val#:	0	Val#:	0	Val#:	0

OTHER SPOTS AT \$150/SPK

Oct	Fall Cattle	(MCR) \$400/lb	61.55	Dec	White Mace	(SAF) \$/100 mt	676.00
Feb <td>Pork Bellies<th>(MCR) \$400/lb</th><th>46.65</th><td>Sept<td>Rubber<th>(TON) Vt % kg</th><th>98.60</th></td></td></td>	Pork Bellies <th>(MCR) \$400/lb</th> <th>46.65</th> <td>Sept<td>Rubber<th>(TON) Vt % kg</th><th>98.60</th></td></td>	(MCR) \$400/lb	46.65	Sept <td>Rubber<th>(TON) Vt % kg</th><th>98.60</th></td>	Rubber <th>(TON) Vt % kg</th> <th>98.60</th>	(TON) Vt % kg	98.60
May <td>Orange Juice<th>(CTN) \$/50 lb</th><th>106.80</th><td>Oct<td>Black Palm<th>(CTN) \$/50 lb</th><th>76.59</th></td></td></td>	Orange Juice <th>(CTN) \$/50 lb</th> <th>106.80</th> <td>Oct<td>Black Palm<th>(CTN) \$/50 lb</th><th>76.59</th></td></td>	(CTN) \$/50 lb	106.80	Oct <td>Black Palm<th>(CTN) \$/50 lb</th><th>76.59</th></td>	Black Palm <th>(CTN) \$/50 lb</th> <th>76.59</th>	(CTN) \$/50 lb	76.59
Dec <td>Cash<th>(MCR) \$/50 lb</th><th>115.25</th></td> <td>Dec<td>Soye Oil<th>(CBT) \$/60B</th><th>21.15</th></td></td>	Cash <th>(MCR) \$/50 lb</th> <th>115.25</th>	(MCR) \$/50 lb	115.25	Dec <td>Soye Oil<th>(CBT) \$/60B</th><th>21.15</th></td>	Soye Oil <th>(CBT) \$/60B</th> <th>21.15</th>	(CBT) \$/60B	21.15
Nov <td>Flax<th>(MCR) \$/20 m</th><th>311.00</th><td>Sept<td>Woolen Yarn<th>(TON) \$/500kg</th><th>1255.00</th></td></td></td>	Flax <th>(MCR) \$/20 m</th> <th>311.00</th> <td>Sept<td>Woolen Yarn<th>(TON) \$/500kg</th><th>1255.00</th></td></td>	(MCR) \$/20 m	311.00	Sept <td>Woolen Yarn<th>(TON) \$/500kg</th><th>1255.00</th></td>	Woolen Yarn <th>(TON) \$/500kg</th> <th>1255.00</th>	(TON) \$/500kg	1255.00

SPORT

Personal best for 'Friendly Games'

Mike Rowbottom
examines the
Commonwealth's
triumph over
the malaise of
cynicism

AT THE conclusion of the last Commonwealth Games in Victoria, an Australian broadcasting journalist was overheard shouting excitedly into his microphone: "And the great news from Canada is that Australia has won the Commonwealth Games!"

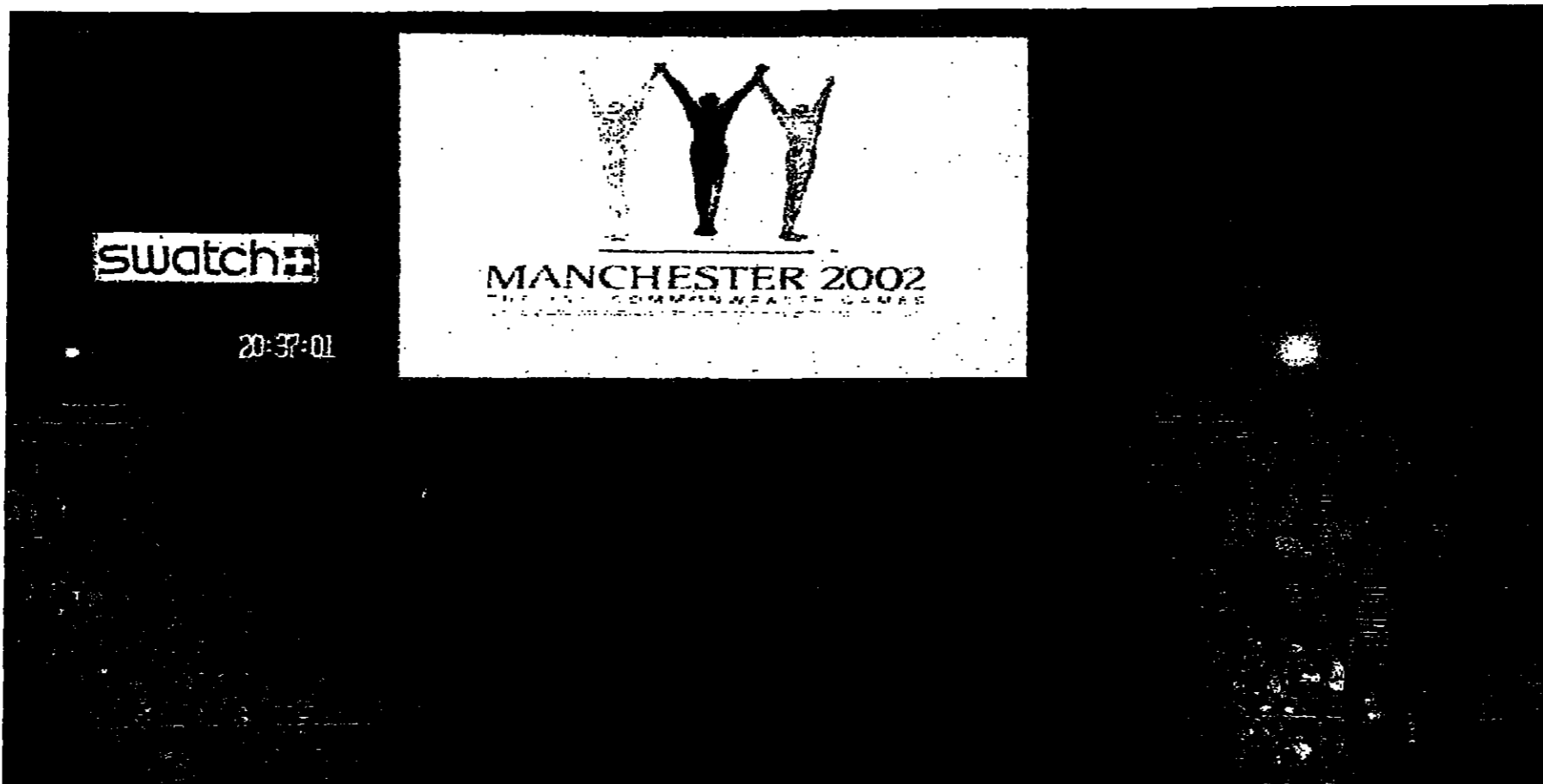
If you want to look at the Games purely in terms of medals – something the Aussies seem more than happy to do as they limber up for the Sydney Olympics two years hence – then, yes, the Australians have won again. For the record it was 199 medals to England's 136.

But the greater victory is that of the Games themselves. From the low point of Edinburgh 12 years ago, when miserable weather and an African boycott threatened to drain the purpose out of a four-yearly product of one Canadian journalist's bright idea, the event has vindicated itself.

This year again, the self-styled "Friendly Games" have succeeded in bringing together highly paid, professional athletes and amateurs in much the same social and sporting mix as the London Marathon produces with elite runners and Joe Joggers.

It is a blend which works, to the benefit of those from both ends of the spectrum.

The Olympic Games, with its stringent qualification requirements, would not allow someone like Candace Blades to contest the heptathlon. Yet this 18-year-old Belizean schoolgirl and novice to the event stayed the course, with the motherly encouragement of Britain's world No 1, Denise Lewis. These Games were a step on the



Manchester's symbol of unity, which will be used to promote the 2002 Games, illuminates Monday's closing ceremony in Kuala Lumpur *Nick Wilson/Allsport*

Olympic way for such track and field athletes as Lewis, Steve Backley, Iwan Thomas and Darren Campbell; in the pool, swimmers like James Hickman and Mark Foster, of England, as well as Australia's Ian Thorpe, are headed in the same direction. Thorpe, or "Thorpedo" as he has come to be known, took four golds and is moving towards Sydney 2000 with potentially explosive effect.

While some of the athletics events were lacking quality entrants, the programme maintained its respectability through such races as the 100 metres, where Ato Boldon won in 9.88sec ahead of the quadruple Olympic silver medalist, Frankie Fredericks.

The newly instituted team sports of squash, hockey, rugby, netball and cricket produced performances of the highest quality and anyone questioning the idea that these championships deserve to maintain their status as the "Friendly Games" would have had their answer at the closing ceremony where athletes of all nations mingled together in exuberant acknowledgement of the talents of Donna Lewis and The Corrs after enjoying performances by New Order and James through a live link-up with Manchester, hosts of the 2002 Games.

Malaysia has been embarrassed by the civil unrest which has followed the deposition of its deputy

and finance minister, Anwar Ibrahim. The suggestion by Malaysia's Prime Minister that the 2008 Olympics could be a target came on the same day that streets in central Kuala Lumpur were blocked off because of rioting by Anwar's supporters.

The volatile political situation has created an underlying tension over the last two weeks, but the Games themselves have been free of any major problems and the hosts, who finished fourth in the medals table, have revelled in them. In sporting terms, it will be a hard act to follow.

The city charged with doing that, Manchester, is conceiving its Games

commitments on a smaller scale than of those which have just taken place for the first time in Asia, where the capital cost was around £300m. A total of £112m has been awarded from National Lottery funds towards the cost of new buildings. Of that, £22m will go towards a double-decker swimming facility – two 50m pools on separate stories for warm-up and competition.

The remaining £90m will go towards a 40,000-seater stadium, into which Manchester City football club are planning to move once the 2002 Games have finished.

The club's directors have agreed in principle to the relocation, although shareholders – and sup-

porters – have yet to voice their full opinion.

Manchester already has a legacy of two unsuccessful Olympic bids in the form of a velodrome, as well as having the Nynex Centre up and running to house other events.

One of these is certain to be netball – another target for England's Tracey Neville, sister of the Manchester United defenders, Phil and Gary. Exactly how Manchester 2000 will reflect the enormous success of the introduction of team sports to the Commonwealth Games here is still being debated.

Apart from the 14 individual sports mentioned in the original bid document, there is likely to be space

for two other team events apart from netball.

The Commonwealth Games Federation is reviewing the position and will let its views be known by 31 March 1999 – but this will only set the blueprint for the 2006 Games and beyond. The line-up for 2002 is being independently evaluated by the Manchester organisers.

Given the enthusiasm of the 2002 Games sports director, Jerry Montgomery, for the rugby sevens which took place at the Petaling Jaya stadium, one of the two optional places would have appeared to have been filled already.

"Can you imagine rugby sevens at Old Trafford?" he said. "I am almost wetting my trousers..."

Montgomery's feelings are entirely justified. The rugby event – which took place here climaxing with a monumental collision between the world champions, Fiji, and New Zealand, and offering the subsequent spectacle of not one but two halves and the vast figure of Jonah Lomu shedding tears of joy – was the quintessence of sport.

Cricket's position is less clear. The national federations which sent teams here indicated their strong wish to Manchester that any future tournament should be based on the 50-over game, rather than the fast-paced version of "cricket max" – basically, two lots of 10 overs each – for which some influential voices in the English cricketing establishment have been lobbying.

If that makes it more difficult for players to be released from county duties in mid-season – well, that is something that needs to be addressed. Certainly if cricket is in the Games, England – who were not represented here – ought to field a decent team.

The Malaysians' passion for hockey was all but sated here by their team's victory over India – in footballing terms, it was England beating Germany in the World Cup finals – and England's strong showing in earning bronze and silver medals respectively from the men's and women's tournaments forms a persuasive argument.

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League
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show in
SAfrica

Basim ma

SPOR

Cheaper

Huddersfield old boy rekindles spirit as Terriers find their bite. By Guy Hodgson

It has been a turn-around as drastic as the difference between their creaking old home at Leeds Road and the futuris-

	P	W	D	L	F	A/Pts
Huddersfield	9	6	1	2	15	10 18
Sunderland	7	5	2	3	12	10 18
Birmingham	5	5	1	3	12	10 18
Bury	6	4	2	7	2	16 15
Sheff Wed	6	4	2	7	2	16 15
Sheff Utd	4	4	2	3	15	16 14
Wolves	8	4	2	2	12	17 13
Bolton	7	3	4	0	18	13 14
Black Burn	4	2	1	3	14	12 13
Townside	8	3	4	1	12	6 13
Norwich	4	4	1	2	12	8 13
Portsmouth	3	3	3	3	16	13 12
Reading	3	3	3	3	16	13 12
Oxford	3	3	2	4	10	10 11
Stokeport	3	4	2	3	9	12 10
Swindon	3	4	2	3	9	12 10
Creme	8	2	4	4	12	14 9
Bradford C.	8	2	2	4	10	13 8
C Palace	8	2	2	4	10	13 8
North End	8	2	2	4	10	13 8
Oxford Utd	1	3	3	5	9	21 6
Grimsby City	0	4	3	4	6	11 4
Tramwre	0	4	3	4	4	12 4

After five successive League victories and only two defeats this season, that has been addressed. Backbone was transplanted with the signing of the former Everton captain Barry Horne while new avenues of attack have been opened by purchasing Ben Thornley, the former Manchester United winger, who snatched the injury-time winner against Wolves on Saturday.

"The critics said we would be off the top of the First Division after 24 hours, but we are still there after two weeks," Jackson said, "and long may it continue."

"We have waited 96 years to

Peter Jackson (left), the Hu

be as high as this so I want the fans and everyone connected with the club to enjoy it. It's important to enjoy the good times. We are getting results because of sheer hard work and we're sitting on top of the table because we deserve to be there."

Whether they will remain there in the near future is open to conjecture, because tonight is the first of three away games that could define their destiny. Win those and supporters will add belief to delirious euphoria.

After Everton, the Terriers travel to the Reebok Stadium for what Jackson describes as potentially the most difficult trip of the season against Bolton and, next Tuesday, they meet Stockport County at Edgeley Park—a fixture and a 3-0 defeat that effectively ended Brian Horton's spell in charge last season.

Huddersfield remembered a 36-year-old former player and called Jackson for a Sunday morning meeting. "I had all the emotions," he said. "I was playing for Halifax on the Saturday and how I got through that game I'll never know, because my mind was going: 'What questions are they going to ask? What am I going to say?'"

to be heading the Nationw

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To say Huddersfield collected their winnings is an understatement, and last March Jackson signed a new two-year contract that confirmed his place at the McAlpine. "I love this club," he said. "When I first walked through the doors of the old stadium I don't know what

is for me'. The day that love disappears will be the day I lose my job."

Corry, maybe, but at a time when media moguls can buy football tradition for the price of £623m, it is refreshing, nonetheless.

No matter what happens tonight, you cannot help but feel Jackson and Huddersfield are worthy of whatever success comes their way. Even a GM Vauxhall Conference

[illegible]

FIRST DIVISION						
	P	M	D	L	F	A Pts
Huddersfield	9	6	12	15	10	19
Sunderland	8	5	10	22	4	18
Sheff Wed	5	8	10	12	10	18
Ipswich	4	6	4	17	2	16
Bury	6	4	4	17	2	16
Worcester	6	5	0	3	14	12
Sheff Wednesday	4	8	2	15	16	14
Blackburn	4	4	2	13	11	14
Bolton	7	3	4	8	13	13
West Brom	4	4	1	3	17	13
Ipswich	8	4	1	12	6	13
Nottingham	5	4	1	12	6	13
Preston North End	3	3	3	16	13	12
Barnsley	5	2	2	12	10	12
Grimsby	9	3	2	4	10	11
Coventry	3	3	2	4	10	11
Swindon	2	2	2	5	10	8
Crewe	8	2	2	4	13	8
Bradford C	5	2	2	4	10	8
Millwall	5	2	1	5	14	7
Port Vale	2	1	5	5	4	14
Oxford	1	3	3	5	9	21
Cardiff City	4	3	4	6	11	6
Princes City	0	4	1	11	20	4
Tranmere	0	4	3	4	12	4

Peter Jackson (left), the Hu

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No matter what happens tonight, you cannot help but feel Jackson and Huddersfield are worthy of whatever success comes their way. Even a GM Vauxhall Conference

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[illegible]

Clubs quiet on Ferguson taunt

BULGARIA

THE COACH who will try to outwit Glenn Hoddle when Bulgaria visit England for a European Championship qualifier next month has, it transpires, a reputation for aggressive and temperamental behaviour.

Dimitar Dimitrov, who

replaced Hristo Bonev following Bulgaria's 3-0 home defeat to Sweden earlier this month, has been disciplined twice by European football's governing body, Uefa, this season for incidents in Champions' League qualifying matches.

Dimitrov, who began the season in charge of the Bulgarian champions, Litex Lovech, was suspended for one game when he went on to the pitch during the game to congratulate his players after they scored a goal at home to Halmstad in July. He received another one-match ban a week later in Sweden, when he shouted abusive

"Trenchev could prove to be very useful in the upcoming matches against England and Sweden. Dimitrov should keep an eye on him," Kotsev said.

The club faces various possible sanctions, including disqualification, at this week's meeting. Last week the league ordered Spartak to play their next match at a neutral ground. "I don't think Spartak will play any more home matches this season," Lipovoi said. "The

The squad includes 11 uncapped players, but Luxembourg has made it plain that some of the World Cup players, such as Ronaldo, are merely being rested.

the match as he needs to overcome a knee problem that has kept him out of the last two Liverpool fixtures. Striker Karlheinz Riedle is fit again after a groin problem and has given Evans and Gerard Houllier, Liverpool's co-manager, the problem of which pairing to play from the German, Michael Owen and Robbie Fowler. The likelihood is that

United have been charged under the FA rule which obliges clubs to provide medical reports for players deemed unfit to report for international duty. The club have 14 days to respond to the charge and to request a hearing.

...the ...

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific information required.

Henman boost as big names miss Munich

Sanders's electrifying punt return in the second quarter opened the scoring. The multi-threat Sanders cut left to elude

But that was the extent of the Giants offense, and Dallas went on to score the next 24 points, including an 80-yard touchdown pass from Garrett to Billy Davis, an 18-yard touchdown run by Sherman Williams and a 71-yard interception return for another touchdown by Sanders.

Andre Agassi has received a wild card to bolster interest in the absence of three of the four Grand Slam champions. Pete Sampras is injured. Pat Rafter is playing Davis Cup in Australia this weekend and Carlos Moyá has committed to playing his home tournament in Majorca.

Agassi, beaten in the fourth round in Australia, the first round at the French, the second round at Wimbledon and the fourth round at the US Open, meets the Frenchman Cedric Pioline in the opening round. The winner will play Petr Korda in the quarter-finals.

Heyman remains at No 11 in

[illegible]

17 Wolves v Bury 1
Friday: Tranmere v Swindon 2
Crystal Palace v Sheffield Utd. 2

SECOND DIVISION

18 Bournemouth v Oldham 1
19 Burnley v Wigan 2
20 Chesterfield v Wrexham 1
21 Colchester v Wycombe 1
22 Lincoln v Fulham 1
23 Luton v Walsall 1
24 Macclesfield v Reading 2
25 Northampton v Manchester City 2
26 Notts County v Millwall 1
27 Preston v Gillingham 1
28 Stoke v Blackpool 1

SECOND DIVISION

465 ARIAS v. Longways (1997) 128 Cal. App. 4th 1071
 Max on contract. Oyle v. Inverness CC, Forster v. Soering, Parodi v. Airbroth. Semlitz East Fair v. Queen of the South.
466 JACOBI v. Bournmouth v. Oldham, Preston v. Gillingham, Howe v. Blackpool, Halifax v. Torquay, Mansfield v. Mill, Clark v. Hectors. So. Johnstone v. Dundee, Ayl v. Ayrshire, Hibernian v. Hamilton.
FIVE ARJAYS: Sharnford Wednesday v. Arsenal, Burnley v. Millers, Mansfield v. Reading, Northampton v. Manchester City, Barnet v. Millwall.
FOUR DRAWING: Aston Villa v. Derby, Everton v. Blackpool, Tottenham v. Leeds, Bradford v. Burnley.
 Note: Each's five lowest odd men on occasionally placed odds of around 66-1.

UNIONBOND LEAGUE First Division:
Belper Town v Macclesfield Town; Bradford
Park Avenue v Trafford; President's Cap
First Round: Eastwood Town v Gaisley;
Garsington v Lifford Utd.

IRISH LEAGUE First Division: Glanville
Town v Leyton Fens (7-4-42)

**AIRPORT INSURANCE NORTHHERN
LEAGUE** First Division: Garsborough v
Bedlington Terriers; Jarrow v Marske.

JENSON WESSOLD LEAGUE Downton
v Farnham Town; East Comes Vics v
Brocthorpe.

WILSON COUNTRIES EAST LEAGUE
Premier Division: Brigg Town v Boston;
Sheffield v Thackley.

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE
First Division: Clitheroe v Ramsbottom

BASKETBALL
BUDWEISER LEAGUE: London Leopards v Derby Storm (7.30).

ICE HOCKEY
DENISON AND HEDGES CUP: Newcastle Riverkings v Bracknell Bees (7.15).

SPEEDWAY
ELITE LEAGUE: Oxford v Ipswich (7.45)
Pace v Wolverhampton (7.30).
PRIMAIR LEAGUE: Hull v Sheffield (7.30).

OTHER SPORTS
EQUESTRIANISM: Horse of the Year

[illegible]

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be addressed. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

... ..

Brilliant Barry is top of the form

He is younger than Michael Owen and has Villa Park enthralled. By Phil Shaw

TO PARAPHRASE a well-known advertising slogan featuring Eric Cantona, 1996 and all that: 1991 was a great year for Aston Villa - Gareth Barry was born.

Villa go into Saturday's top-of-the-table collision at home to Derby County occupying the top spot in which they last finished 17 years ago, when Barry was sucking dummies rather than selling them to forwards. Their fine start has been based on defensive meanness - just one goal given up in six Premiership games - and the contribution of their fresh-faced No 15 has been as awesome as it was unexpected.

Barry did not become a full-time professional until February, having come to the club only the previous summer. But already, perhaps prematurely after fewer than 10 senior appearances, he has drawn comparisons with the young Bobby Moore. Time will tell, yet the belief that Villa have unearthed pure gold in claret and blue owes more to his extraordinary composure than the coincidence of colours.

On Friday Villa will attend a tribunal which will decide how much, if anything, they must pay Brighton & Hove Albion for plucking him from their centre of excellence at the age of 16. A figure of £3,500, to cover coaching expenses, has been mentioned. If John Gregory were ordered to pay £3.5m, he would be advised to cough up.

The scout who delivered Barry to Villa was Brian Jones. Having spotted him playing in a Sussex schools match and recommended him to Brian Little, Jones now regards him as his best discovery since Gordon Cowans. Arsenal and Chelsea also had designs on him, although at one time he was tempted to pursue a career in rugby or cricket.

Gregory, then two months

into the manager's job, gave him his debut against the new champions, Arsenal, on last season's final day. Barry hardly gave Nicolas Anelka a kick in a 1-0 win. However, when Villa paid £3m for David Unsworth to replace Steve Staunton on the left of the back three, the former midfielder looked set for another year out of the public gaze.

Now the guitar-strumming Gregory could be forgiven for bursting into an impromptu rendition of "Here's to you, Mrs Unsworth". For it was his insistence that her husband find a club in the North-west that led to Barry receiving his opportunity on the opening day of the new campaign.

He took it with both feet, coping with the heat, the clamour of the Everton crowd and Duncan Ferguson as if he was enjoying a beach game back in his home town of Hastings. "The lad had no fear or apprehension at all," Gregory purred. "He produced one cushioned header to a team-mate, under pressure, that made me turn to Steve Harrison (Villa's coach) in disbelief."

One of Glenn Hoddle's back-room staff, Peter Taylor, was equally impressed. Barry, who stands a quarter of an inch under 6ft, is an England Under-18 cap and seems certain to follow his fellow Villa defender, Riccardo Scimeca, into the Under-21s.

To put his promise into perspective: Scimeca, who captained his country at the latter level, is rated a good prospect. Barry has a staggering six years on him, not to mention being 14 months younger than Michael Owen.

Villa-watchers have waited for a hint of fallibility. Alan Shearer did not manage to expose one. Nor did Wimbledon's towering strikeforce. And he



Gareth Barry, the 17-year-old Aston Villa defender, shows his poise and confidence on the ball

Allsport

was coolness itself at Leeds, killing one long pass on his chest in the penalty area and feinting past Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink with a drop of the shoulder before launching a counter-attack with the outside of the foot.

That came moved Gregory to describe Barry as "a bit of a freak", and to admit there were times when he wished he would belt the ball into Row Z. "I sup-

pose one day he'll get caught being too clever and it'll cost us a goal, but we're not going to try to change him," he said. "It's best not to tamper with talent like that."

Nor to burn it out either, as his manager is only too aware. "Gareth can be anybody he wants, but you would think there will come a time at such a tender age when he dips and has to come out of the action.

It's down to us how we use him, how we look after him after matches and to make sure we don't fog the guts out of him all week in training.

"He has coped with it all so far. He's a quick learner and has the advantage of being a down-to-earth kid but I've seen so many players destroyed by putting them on a pedestal. They can be on top of the world at 17 and disappear off the face

of the earth by 19. Still, he's been the biggest bonus of my time here and if he plays 30 games this season it'll be phenomenal."

Strikers win matches, Gregory is fond of saying, whereas defenders win championships. Villa have won nothing yet, but with Barry maturing rapidly alongside Gareth Southgate and Ugo Ehiogu, they are unlikely to fail for want of a solid foundation.

Riseth deal signals change

THE CELTIC chairman, Fergus McCann, promised further signings after the Scottish champions paraded their latest recruit, the Norwegian international Vidar Riseth, at Parkhead yesterday.

"There is no lack of activity, but it is important that we are selective," McCann said, responding to recent criticism by supporters disappointed that he had failed to strengthen the team during the summer. "There is no question of holding back any funding for our coach, Jozef Zigmund."

Riseth, who plays in midfield, completed his £1.5m move from the Austrian club LASK Linz after signing a four-year contract in Glasgow. Afterwards the 26-year-old Norwegian international explained how the presence of several other Scandinavians at Celtic had attracted him to the club.

The Norwegian striker Harald Brattbakk, Danish World Cup players Marc Rieper and Morten Wieghorst and Swedish forward Henrik Larsson are all playing for Celtic.

"I talked to Harald and he said Celtic were a good club with great fans and this is a nice place to improve my career at such an important stage," said

Riseth, who has 10 caps. "I played in two of the games for Norway during the World Cup finals but I knew it was time for me to move on to a bigger club."

"It was important for me to come to a club which can win things and I hope I can help Celtic to win the Scottish championship."

The left-side midfielder moved to Linz in 1996 after a short spell with Luton in England. Before that he was with the Norwegian side Rosenborg Trondheim.

Aberdeen have admitted their disappointment after a transfer tribunal ruled Newcastle must pay them £650,000 for Stephen Glass.

The Dons wanted £1m for the Scotland under-21 and B international midfielder, while Newcastle offered only £100,000. Aberdeen chairman Stewart Milne said: "We put forward what we believed was an extremely strong case, but unfortunately the panel decided on a figure somewhere in the middle of what the two clubs were after. While we should be receiving more for a player of the calibre of Stephen, we obviously have no option but to abide by the tribunal's finding."

Inter's Baggio in lucky escape

ROBERTO BAGGIO has escaped unhurt after an accident in which his car collided with a truck. The incident occurred on Monday afternoon, when the Internazionale and Italy player was driving to his home near Pavia in northern Italy. Police said that Baggio's Mercedes was hit by a truck which, apparently out of control, had crossed into his lane.

The president of the Italian Olympic committee (Coni) was questioned for three hours by a government enquiry in Rome yesterday over allegations relating to drugs tests in football.

Mario Pescante faced the commission of enquiry after revelations that only a fraction of Italian footballers' urine samples were tested for steroids and that test records were destroyed after two months.

Giorgio Santilli, who on Monday was sacked by Coni as president of the Italian Sporting Doctors' Federation, which runs the test laboratory at the centre of the scandal, will face the commission next.

He will be followed by the head of the Italian football fed-

eration, Luciano Nizola, in the enquiry which has been ordered by Italy's deputy prime minister, Walter Veltroni.

The former Leeds striker Tony Yeboah, now 32, has rejected an appeal from Ghana to make an international comeback. A spokesman for Yeboah's present club, Hamburg, said: "Because of his age and a lot of problems with injuries, Anthony Yeboah retired from the national team a few years ago. His situation still hasn't changed."

France intends to honour its female football supporters when the national side returns to the scene of their World Cup triumph next month. The French football federation is laying on a special night of celebration at the Stade de France on 14 October when France play a Euro 2000 qualifier against Andorra.

A rose will be given to every woman who attends the match. Female fans can pay a reduced price of 50 francs (£5.30) for a special 9,000-capacity women-only stand, where they will be given other gifts by the team's sponsors. In addition, all the ball-gatherers will be girls.

Euro 2000's worries about traffic jams

TRAFFIC JAMS are the main problem facing the Euro 2000 championship in Belgium and the Netherlands, Alain Courtois, the tournament director, said yesterday.

"Everybody's talking about security and tickets, but what's keeping me busy more is the mobility problem," Courtois told Het Nieuwsblad newspaper.

"How are people going to reach and leave the stadium? How do we make sure that it isn't a nuisance for people? We need good public transport between both countries to avoid traffic jams. This will be the [main] problem of Euro 2000," he said.

Courtois dismissed reports that construction works in Euro 2000 stadiums were behind schedule. Preparations for the finals have recently been attacked in the Dutch and Belgian media. The governing body of European football, Uefa, denied a report that a number of areas - including security and ticket distribution - had not yet been finalised. The plans will be announced at a news conference in Rotterdam on 27 October.

Hammers downplay Juve link

ALESSANDRO DEL PIERO will play for West Ham when John Hartson is unfit and the World Cup-winning midfielder, Zinedine Zidane, will stand by to replace Eyal Berkovic should the Israeli playmaker pull a muscle. That, at least, seemed the tantalising scenario yesterday when it was announced that the Hammers are considering some kind of partnership scheme with Juventus.

The truth of the matter, unfortunately, is somewhat more mundane. Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, travelled to Rome on a scouting

mission last weekend, and met the Juventus general manager, Luciano Moggi, while he was there. On returning to London, Redknapp told ChubCall: "It is clear Juventus are really enthusiastic about linking up with us."

The assumption was immediately made that players from both sides would be jettisoned between Italy and the East End, and that Ian Wright would be as likely to face Milan or Internazionale each week as Charlton or Wimbledon.

Yesterday Peter Storrie, the Hammers chairman, said: "Harry went to watch a game. He had a discussion [with Moggi] and [Moggi] said 'Would it be a good idea to have an association?' and Harry said to him: 'You'll have to talk to our chairman.' And that's it, nothing else." Storrie added that he may go to Italy to meet Juventus officials at some stage, but nothing is planned yet and he has no idea what to expect from any association.

Redknapp said: "If it developed, there would obviously be the opportunity for us to loan

and buy top players from Juventus, when they become available." But nothing has yet developed, and Didier Deschamps and Edgar Davids will just have to wait a while longer for their chance at Upton Park.

At the less glamorous end of the London transfer market, Brentford have signed the defender Hermann Hreidarsdottir from Crystal Palace, the former club of their chairman and manager, Ron Noades.

The 24-year-old Icelandic international has cost the Third Division side £750,000 - a club

record fee and the biggest fee paid by a Third Division club. It most resembles the previous Brentford record of £275,000, paid out for the striker Joe Allon nearly six years ago. Noades has also signed Palace's Republic of Ireland Under-21 international, Tony Rolan, for £100,000.

The Bury manager, Neil Warnock, has warned off the Premiership strugglers Sheffield Wednesday by putting a £4m price tag on his highly-rated goalkeeper, Dean Kiely.

The Wednesday manager, Danny Wilson, is also trying to

sign the striker Ashley Ward from his old club Barnsley this week - but faces a fight with Leicester City.

Wilson wants Ward to lead his attack at Hillsborough - but Leicester are also keen on the experienced forward as a partner for Emile Heskey.

Bradford City are to give John McGinlay a free transfer - less than a year after his £250,000 move from Bolton. The Scottish international striker is fit again, after an Achilles tendon operation put him out of contention for the World Cup.

Federation forces Festina out of world championships

THE FESTINA cycling team, thrown out of the Tour de France amid doping allegations, will miss next month's world championships after the French Cycling Federation yesterday decided to adjourn disciplinary procedures against them.

Daniel Baal, the FFC's president, announced the decision at a Paris press conference and explained that the Federation had opted for a delay because judicial authorities had forced their hand.

"Because the judicial authorities have not authorised the FFC to use the verbal depositions of those charged, either as civil parties or merely as witnesses, the FFC believes it cannot exercise its disciplinary power."

"For these reasons, it is adjourning the said procedures," Baal explained. He added that the procedure remained open and that, because the riders still

stood to receive disciplinary measures from the International Cycling Union, the sport's ruling body, "they will not be able to be selected for the world championship."

The German sprinter Marcel Wust struck again in the 17th stage of the Tour de France yesterday from Burgos to Leon. Wust's fast finish took him clear of Spain's Angel Edo with the Russian Sergei Smetanine third in a mass sprint. But this win in the stage from Burgos came nowhere near the record pace of the German's first victory last Saturday, when he averaged 51.137kph at Zaragoza to set the fastest average for a road race stage in any of the three major tours.

Yesterday, however, headwinds slowed times in the 188.5km stage and nothing disturbed the overall lead of Spain's Abraham Olano, who is still 22 seconds clear of Laurent Jalabert of France.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL
NFL New York Giants 7 Dallas Cowboys 31.

BASEBALL
AMERICAN LEAGUE Boston 4 Tampa Bay 3 (first game); Tampa Bay 8 Boston 4 (second game); Cleveland 4 New York Yankees 1; Detroit 7 Kansas City 5; Toronto 3 Baltimore 1; Chicago White Sox 7 Minnesota 2; Texas 5 Anaheim 1; Seattle 5 Oakland 2.

EAST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
NY Yankees	107	48	.690	0
Boston	87	68	.562	20 1/2
Toronto	84	73	.533	24
Baltimore	78	78	.500	29 1/2
Tampa Bay	63	93	.404	44 1/2

CENTRAL DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	98	67	.598	0
Chicago White Sox	76	80	.487	12 1/2
Kansas City	71	84	.454	17
Minnesota	75	82	.423	22 1/2
Detroit	62	95	.395	37

WEST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Texas	84	72	.539	0
Anaheim	83	73	.531	0 1/2
Seattle	73	82	.471	10 1/2
Oakland	71	85	.455	13

NATIONAL LEAGUE Cincinnati 8 Philadelphia 5; San Francisco 8 Pittsburgh 1.

EAST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Athens	101	56	.643	0
NY Mets	87	70	.554	12
Philadelphia	72	84	.462	26 1/2
Montreal	62	94	.397	36 1/2
Florida	51	105	.327	45 1/2

CENTRAL DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houston	99	58	.631	0
Chicago Cubs	87	70	.554	12
St Louis	79	77	.506	19 1/2
Cincinnati	74	83	.471	24
Pittsburgh	72	84	.462	26 1/2
Cleveland	66	87	.432	32 1/2

WEST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Diego	96	61	.611	0
San Francisco	84	72	.538	12 1/2
Los Angeles	79	77	.506	16 1/2
Colorado	75	82	.478	21
Arizona	62	95	.395	34

* won division

BOXING
Freddie Norwood, of the United States, yesterday stopped the Japanese challenger Koji Matsunaga in the 10th round in their scheduled World Boxing Association featherweight championship bout in Tokyo. However, Norwood's victory left the championship vacant because he was more than 28 ounces over the 9st limit at the weigh-in on Monday and forfeited his title. Matsunaga, 28, had won, he could have become the new champion.

CYCLING
TOUR OF SPAIN 17th stage (188.5km, Burgos to Leon): 1 M Wust (Ger) Lons A 55min 33sec; 2 A Edo (Sp) 55min 38sec; 3 S Smetanine (Rus) 56min 01sec; 4 S Tourenberg (Ger) 56min 04sec; 5 M Zberg (Swi) 56min 07sec; 6 P van Petegem (Bel) 56min 10sec; 7 R Gans (Nld) 56min 13sec; 8 M Wust (Ger) 56min 16sec; 9 T Hoffman (Nem) 56min 19sec; 10 A Edo (Sp) 56min 22sec; 11 S Smetanine (Rus) 56min 25sec; 12 S Tourenberg (Ger) 56min 28sec; 13 G Raimondo (It) 56min 31sec; 14 E Angulo (Sp) 56min 34sec; 15 G Tremblay (Can) 56min 37sec; 16 M Wust (Ger) 56min 40sec; 17 C Carmichael (GB) 56min 43sec; 18 D Edermann (Sp) 56min 46sec; 19 C Piers (Bel) 56min 49sec; 20 K Hindermark (Ger) 56min 52sec; 21 A Edo (Sp) 56min 55sec; 22 A Edo (Sp) 56min 58sec; 23 M Wust (Ger) 56min 61sec; 24 S Tourenberg (Ger) 56min 64sec; 25 M Zberg (Swi) 56min 67sec; 26 P van Petegem (Bel) 56min 70sec; 27 R Gans (Nld) 56min 73sec; 28 M Wust (Ger) 56min 76sec; 29 T Hoffman (Nem) 56min 79sec; 30 A Edo (Sp) 56min 82sec; 31 S Smetanine (Rus) 56min 85sec; 32 S Tourenberg (Ger) 56min 88sec; 33 G Raimondo (It) 56min 91sec; 34 E Angulo (Sp) 56min 94sec; 35 G Tremblay (Can) 56min 97sec; 36 M Wust (Ger) 56min 100sec; 37 C Carmichael (GB) 56min 103sec; 38 D Edermann (Sp) 56min 106sec; 39 C Piers (Bel) 56min 109sec; 40 K Hindermark (Ger) 56min 112sec; 41 A Edo (Sp) 56min 115sec; 42 A Edo (Sp) 56min 118sec; 43 M Wust (Ger) 56min 121sec; 44 S Tourenberg (Ger) 56min 124sec; 45 M Zberg (Swi) 56min 127sec; 46 P van Petegem (Bel) 56min 130sec; 47 R Gans (Nld) 56min 133sec; 48 M Wust (Ger) 56min 136sec; 49 T Hoffman (Nem) 56min 139sec; 50 A Edo (Sp) 56min 142sec; 51 S Smetanine (Rus) 56min 145sec; 52 S Tourenberg (Ger) 56min 148sec; 53 G Raimondo (It) 56min 151sec; 54 E Angulo (Sp) 56min 154sec; 55 G Tremblay (Can) 56min 157sec; 56 M Wust (Ger) 56min 160sec; 57 C Carmichael (GB) 56min 163sec; 58 D Edermann (Sp) 56min 166sec; 59 C Piers (Bel) 56min 169sec; 60 K Hindermark (Ger) 56min 172sec; 61 A Edo (Sp) 56min 175sec; 62 A Edo (Sp) 56min 178sec; 63 M Wust (Ger) 56min 181sec; 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218 D Edermann (Sp) 56min 646sec; 219 C Piers (Bel) 56min 649sec; 220 K Hindermark (Ger) 56min 652sec; 221 A Edo (Sp) 56min 655sec; 222 A Edo (Sp) 56min 658sec; 223 M Wust (Ger) 56min 661sec; 224 S Tourenberg (Ger) 56min 664sec; 225 M Zberg (Swi) 56min 667sec; 226 P van Petegem (Bel) 56min 670sec; 227 R Gans (Nld) 56min 673sec; 228 M Wust (Ger) 56min 676sec; 229 T Hoffman (Nem) 56min 679sec; 230 A Edo (Sp) 56min 682sec; 231 S Smetanine (Rus) 56min 685sec; 232 S Tourenberg (Ger) 56min 688sec; 233 G Raimondo (It) 56min 691sec; 234 E Angulo (Sp) 56min 694sec; 235 G Tremblay (Can) 56min 697sec; 236 M Wust (Ger) 56min 700sec; 237 C Carmichael (GB) 56min 703sec; 238 D Edermann (Sp) 56min 706sec; 239 C Piers (Bel) 56min 709sec; 240 K Hindermark (Ger) 56min 712sec; 241 A Edo (Sp) 56min 715sec; 242 A Edo (Sp) 56min 718sec; 243 M Wust (Ger) 56min 721sec; 244 S Tourenberg (Ger) 56min 724sec; 245 M Zberg (Swi) 56min 727sec; 246 P van Petegem (Bel) 56min 730sec; 247 R Gans (Nld) 56min 733sec; 248 M Wust (Ger) 56min 736sec; 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SPORT

RYDELL'S RACE TO CROWN P27 • VILLA'S MICHAEL OWEN P29

Nationwide
to embrace
pay-per-view

MANCHESTER UNITED versus Liverpool comes "free" with a Sky subscription tomorrow night but even if it had to be paid for on a pay-per-view basis there would be no shortage of viewers willing to pledge their £5 or £10.

Apart from the two red armies, many neutrals would be willing to pay to see such a heavyweight meeting. But Portsmouth versus Port Vale? Gillingham versus Blackpool? Or Barnet versus Carlisle? How many neutrals would pay for that? The Football League intends to find out. It will see out the old year and welcome in the new with the first step of a new era in which every game could be available, at a price.

While there may be a sense of quiet satisfaction should the Football League beat the Premier League to the distinction of being the first body to show a pay-per-view match in England - and the Premiership also have imminent plans to do so - this is not about one-upmanship but about trying to maintain a three-division professional league outside of the Premiership. Among other innovations being considered by an organisation undergoing radical change is the establishment of a salary cap among its clubs. A common feature in American sport and rugby league, it would be a controversial development even if the idea is to save clubs from themselves.

The pay-per-view experiment would open up with one of the Nationwide League's more attractive fixtures - perhaps Sunderland, who are currently packing them in at the Stadium of Light, or Manchester City, who are even managing to pull in full houses in the Second Division. Possible fixtures could include Manchester City versus Stoke or Sunderland versus Crewe on 28

BY GLENN MOORE

December, or Bournemouth versus Fulham on 2 January. Once the principle is established and the public's attention grabbed they would then experiment with less seductive dishes - perhaps Grimsby versus Bolton on 6 February or Leyton Orient's visit to Hartlepool on 9 March. The plan is for six or seven pay-per-view matches in total.

The idea, according to Richard Scudamore, the Football League's new chief executive, is to test the water. "No one knows what the market is for this at the moment. We have to find out what is appropriate with regard to the timing of games and the price to be charged."

Scudamore was keen to stress that the fixtures would be additional to those already due to Sky subscribers, and he noted that viewers should remember that there has never been a golden age of regular live televised matches, but that the whole area is in fact a relatively recent phenomenon.

However it would also be naïve not to perceive this as the first step towards viewers having to pay more money, more often, to watch football. Scudamore admitted that the next television contract would be likely to involve a variety of methods and broadcasters. It must be questioned how much demand there is for some of these matches. Already the market may be approaching saturation coverage - tomorrow's game is the 15th live match in 12 days. However, niche television is widely believed to be the future of the industry and it is understandable that the Football League, whose clubs are relatively impoverished compared to those in the Premiership, would look at every avenue of raising both the income and the profile of their clubs.

Scudamore's biggest problem may be retaining a spirit of "mutuality" among the Football League's 72 clubs. The big pay-per-view earners, like Sunderland and Manchester City, may take some persuading to share the revenue they generate. "We need to find a formula for payments which is fair and equitable", Scudamore admitted.

The new chief executive's experience of American sports appears to be behind the suggestion of a salary cap, but it may prove difficult to institute without the anti-trust laws which are present in the United States. David Sheepshanks, who will shortly stand down as the Football League's chairman, said: "It is worth study and debate but as the chairman of Ipswich, I for example would not want to see a salary cap tied to turnover, as that would just preserve the gap between the wealthier clubs and others."

During his time as chairman, Sheepshanks has overseen a steady modernisation of the Football League, which will soon be opening new offices in London and Preston and closing down its isolated former head office in Ipswich. "Keeping a healthy Football League is vital for the future of the game in England," he insisted. He was opposed to the principle of media companies like Sky taking over major teams like Manchester United, and was fearful that the Office of Fair Trading, in the impending inquiry, would outlaw the current practice of imposed collective bargaining among clubs for TV deals.

"It would be a disaster for the structure of football," he warned. "Collective agreements mean there is something of a level playing field. It would be the final nail in the coffin to the hopes of small clubs like Ipswich overcoming the big clubs."

Sanders' one-man rodeo show for the Cowboys



Deion Sanders, of the Dallas Cowboys, plays to the crowd after his 59-yard punt return for a touchdown against the New York Giants on Monday at Giants Stadium. Sanders scored two touchdowns in the Cowboys' 31-7 victory. Report, page 28; AP

Premier meets on Murdoch

BY ALAN NIXON

THE PREMIER League is arranging a meeting of all of its clubs - with the exception of Manchester United - to look into the implications of Rupert Murdoch's takeover bid at Old Trafford.

Peter Leaver, the chief executive, has contacted officials to sound them out, and the key issues will be discussed shortly as fears grow about the effect of the proposed BSkyB buy-out.

Chairmen will be called to a meeting, probably within a fortnight, to thrash out worries about the effect of the BSkyB Murdoch bid on competition and future TV deals involving the Premier League.

The League is in the forefront of this organisation, as revealed by *The Independent* yesterday, and it has confirmed

its submission to the Office of Fair Trading will be asking some tough questions.

Mike Lee, a League spokesman, confirmed that a submission would be made - as requested - to the OFT, which is investigating the proposed takeover. "This is a matter for the competition authorities. We will be seeking clarification on competition issues," he said last night. The Professional

Footballers' Association is preparing a submission which will back up the argument that United could become too powerful for the Premiership. Some Premier League chairmen have expressed reservations about the takeover, suggesting it could lead to a conflict of interests in television negotiations.

George Graham yesterday insisted it was business "as usual" after Leeds United

turned down a Tottenham bid to speak to him about their vacant manager's post.

After Leeds told Spurs it would cost them £6m to poach Graham, he said: "I've been told by Peter Ridsdale [the Leeds chairman] that Spurs have made an inquiry for me, but the club have refused them permission to talk to me, so as far as I'm concerned, it's work as usual."

Edmilson takes some
stick over carrot act

BY MARK BURTON

CARROTS WERE once reputed to improve a person's ability to see in the dark, but it takes more than sharp eyesight to penetrate the dim depths of the intellect that conjured up the latest in a long line of eccentric, not to say ludicrous, goal celebrations that have begun to illuminate Brazilian club football.

The latest little number, acted out at the weekend by Edmilson, involved the Atletico Mineiro striker pulling a carrot from his shorts after scoring the opening goal in a 2-0 victory over America and ostentatiously eating it in front of rival supporters.

So was Edmilson showing off the benefits of healthy eating for sportsman? No, he was making fun of the America fans, whose team are known as the Rabbits. Whatever the carrot act did for Edmilson's digestive system, it certainly did not go down well with America. One America player, Dinho, was sent off for a vicious tackle on Edmilson during the second half in an apparent reprisal.

With both teams coming from Belo Horizonte, Edmilson's performance ranked somewhere between Tottenham fans making donkey noises at Tony Adams and Paul Gascoigne's infamous flute playing during an Old Firm match.

"I didn't want to offend anyone with the joke. It was just to liven up the derby," Edmilson said, explaining that he kept the carrot in his shorts from the start of the game until scoring in the 20th minute.

"Did I find it revolting to eat



Edmilson eats a carrot in front of the Rabbits. Reuters

It? Of course not. I don't find my own body revolting."

He admitted, though, that Dinho was not impressed.

"He said it was a humiliation," Edmilson said. "He was very violent with me and was so angry that he spat in my face. He didn't see the funny side."

The referee, Jose Roberto Wright, who officiated at the 1990 World Cup, was not amused either. "What he did... with the intention of provoking the rival fans, merited a yellow card," he said.

Acclaiming goals with

bizarre acts has increased in popularity among players around the world over the past few years, but Brazil probably still leads the way. Two years ago, a Corinthians player provoked uproar by impersonating a floundering fish after a goal against Santos, who are nicknamed The Fish.

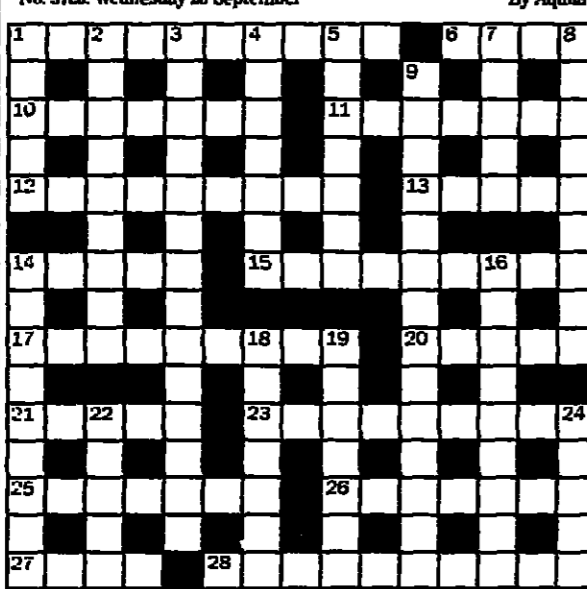
One of the most popular is the telephone celebration, in which the scorer runs to the public phone behind the goal at the Maracana stadium and pretends to make a call. Wrong number? Or just a hang-up?

THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3723, Wednesday 23 September

By Aquila

Tuesday's Solution



1 DOWN
2 DOWN
3 DOWN
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ACROSS
1 Change sheet, twisted and flimsy (3-7)
6 Alliance concealed by Pablo Casals (4)
10 I am getting ahead of beat, in sudden whim (7)
11 He turns his back on wild region to the right (7)
12 Where litter is left to fight a great deal (5-4)
13 Sheer turmoil here in Surrey (5)
14 Prison holding short Irish terror (5)
15 Does one retain our worry-heads? (9)
17 All Souls' (9)
20 Unfertilized seed united in love, possibly (5)

21 Appetite got us in a bad way (5)
23 Also call round for Rembrandt, say (9)
25 A mitral disorder of a husband (7)
26 Centre of corn earth-circle (One of 4 in AYLD) (7)
27 All-points bulletin (4)
28 Swarming insects not true to type? (10)

DOWN
1 Hides family on board (5)
2 Master is east of craft (9)
3 Value of tar - the last to join ship? (14)
4 First pair getting the ball rolling (7)

5 Butcher's short sight? (7)
7 Wood of bow in left hand (5)
8 Flurry following wag-on round (9)
9 Sublime, neat non-tumble underthings (14)
14 Rev up in glen, my car is mobile (9)
16 Affluence of a Chelsea Ball? (9)
18 Moor to return greeting (7)
19 Disease of horse and chicken soon to begin (7)
22 Salary - Archimedes' idea? (5)
24 Somewhere to settle in kangaroo's territory (5)

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THE INDEPENDENT

23 September 1998

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

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Monica

The great thing about Monica Lewinsky is that you can have her any way you want her and she's always a willing accomplice. Monica is, as we know, desperate to please, desperate for some attention and boy have we given it to her. If, in Clinton's twisted definition of sex, Monica did not count as "another person" or "any other person", more a series of body parts to be avoided, then she has indeed been reduced to a masturbatory aid. Yet given her inflated sense of herself, it is only fitting that the media should further inflate her until she has become little more than a walking, talking blow-up doll.

See her photographed in kitschy outfits by Herb Ritts in *Vanity Fair*. See her suicidal, devastated at destroying the man she claims to love. See her as the anti-Hillary, dumb and blowsy and impressionable. See her as a potential bunny-boiler, *Fatal Attraction*-style, unable and unwilling to let her man go. See her as a little girl lost who believes that Mr President will leave his wife for her. See her as a spoiled Valley Girl who certainly expects something for nothing, because that's what she is accustomed to. See her above all in the words of that expert on women, Alan Clark, as "a randy little minx".

All of this, of course, is a way of not seeing her at all. Though her image is everywhere, it has already become iconic. The full lips, the curtain of hair are given to Warholian reproduction. She looks good in black and white. Despite her make-over, the shoes, the suit, the oh-so-sensible handbag, colour betrays Monica. She still looks too fleshy, like she's trying too hard to look like a good girl. So we should not be surprised that she is overblown, this blow-up doll - and we aren't. No, what shocks us is that she should have real emotions; misguided, maybe, but heart-felt nonetheless; that she should be embarrassed about revealing the sexual details of her affair with the President, and that she should feel so hurt by his public pronouncements about her.

Since last week's publication of the Starr report and this week's release of her full testimony to the grand jury, it has become more and more difficult to slot Monica into any of the stereotypes on hand. If we want to view her as little more than a sexual opportunist, then her adolescent obsession with Clinton indicates that she doesn't have the required cynicism. From the minute she meets him she feels "an intense connection" with him. She falls in love with "the big creep". "I thought he had a beautiful soul," she gushes. "When I looked at him, I saw a little boy."

At several points while giving testimony, Monica burst into tears. Indeed the bodily fluid that seems to have been exchanged more than any other between Monica and Bill is salt water. Monica cries when she thinks of what has happened. Clinton's eyes water when he thinks of what might happen as a result. He told the grand jury that Monica sometimes got very distraught. "She got upset from time to time", especially when he couldn't or wouldn't see her. However he also revealed some affection for Monica. If this was spin then it was good spin. For the first time in this whole sordid episode, what emerges is the possibility that this was a consensual relationship based on mutual affection. Clinton will have done more for his poll ratings by speaking kindly of Monica than by portraying himself as the passive recipient of oral sex. In this way he truly has been guilty of turning Monica into little more than a dehumanised receptacle.

Yet if Lewinsky is not an opportunist, we know too much of her background to see her as a wronged innocent. In some ways she clearly knew what she was doing. In some. Not all. Dubbed "the clutch" by her White House colleagues, she would not let go of someone's hand if she thought they were important. She came to Clinton with a string of affairs with married men behind her and a reputation, if not as a liar, then certainly as an exaggerator. She was once sent home from the White House for wearing a dress that was too revealing. She was pushy and bubbly. We see her now in new photographs thrusting her way forward, smiling her big smile as she cozies up to the President. Yet all this self-confidence hides what the shrinks like to call "neediness", and Monica in her begging let-

ters comes across as very needy indeed. "Please do not do this to me," she writes, underlining each word. She feels disposable and used. She is desperate to believe that the President can't live without her when it must be apparent that he can.

While the rest of the world is by turns disgusted and titillated by details of blow-jobs, fumblyings and antics with cigars, one vital detail has been ignored. We find it easier in some ways to deal with the finer points of fellatio than we do with the feelings that Clinton and Lewinsky may have had for each other. This may be because three or more languages are being spoken here. There is the intense and paternalistic legalese of Starr and his cronies, the romantic tosh that Monica spouts and the more "mature" outlook of Clinton.

Clinton may now speak of himself as a broken spirit, but by all accounts it is Monica who is broken. He still gets standing ovations. If Clinton insists she was having sex with him while he was not having sex with her, it now looks as if she was having a relationship with him even if he wasn't having one with her. "I know it sounds soooooo ridiculous, but I can't get him out of my heart," she wrote. "I love him a lot. I know it's stupid. I want to hug him so bad ... I could cry." Lewinsky often sounds like this. Gushing, sentimental and coy about sex. She sounds, in fact, about 13.

This combination of knowing sexual technique and emotional immaturity is what makes Monica both so hard to classify and yet so recognisable - she is neither victim nor vamp. Other women have been amazingly cruel about her. She is too big, too clumsy and tacky to be a stylish scarlet woman. If Clinton has an appetite for junk food that he knows is bad for him, these big-haired, soft-tipped women like Monica represent junk sex. The charge against her is that she knew what she was doing, therefore she was in no way abused. Yet to read her testimony is to see that of course she was used by the most powerful man in the world. She gave him oral sex in return for what? The fantasy that she was important, that what she thought mattered, that when it came down to it, it wasn't just about sex.

Yet how can we ask Monica the truth about sex when she wants to talk about love, and how can we ask her lover the truth when he denies the sex? After Clinton made his "apology" on 17 August, Monica revealed the full extent of her confusion. "What I took away was that I didn't know what the truth was. And so how could I know the truth of my love for someone if it was based on him being an actor?" No wonder there is a sense of unreality about Monica. She moves in a world where self-deception and delusion is an art form. In the dysfunctional mall of a childhood called Beverly Hills, many things can take the place of love: credit cards, power, celebrity, sex. Her father, who came to America as the child of German Jewish refugees who had fled from the Nazis, ended up running a profitable string of cancer clinics. He may not have been around for his daughter, but both she and her mother were able to "max out" on credit cards in the stores of Rodeo Drive.

Monica soon realised that present-buying was a way of achieving popularity. Then she started to give men other kinds of presents - as the President has found to his cost. Monica, then, is a girl who grew up knowing the cost of everything and the value of nothing, who finds it difficult to know when she is lying and when others are lying. She is a material girl in a material world but look how she seeks something other than the trappings of wealth, something that talks of the soul.

For what we cannot cope with about Monica is her appetite and her desire. We already know about Bill, and anyway, men are allowed appetites. Women are not and yet here we have Monica, overweight and over-sexed: a woman who wants too much is always too dangerous. And in wanting the most powerful man in the world to fall in love with her, Monica really did expect too much.

But as the world knows everything there is to know about the kind of sex she had, Monica, we find, has been talking to the grand jury about love. "When you look at it now, was it love or sexual obsession?" a juror asked her.

"More love," she responded, "with a little bit of obsession, but definitely love." Inappropriate intimate contact? It's neither here nor there. Only love can break your heart.



David Burnett/Contact/Corbis

Dumb brunette,
bunny boiler,
Valley Girl,
minx, victim,
fool for love.
Who is
Monica Lewinsky
and what does
she want?

BY SUZANNE
MOORE

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Power to Lib Dems

Sir: Your leading article "The strange death of liberalism under Paddy Ashdown" (21 September) misses the point.

As a Liberal Democrat, I want to see my party's policies put into effect. The only realistic way in which that can happen is to get Liberal Democrats into the Cabinet, or at least into the policy-formation loop. That has happened to an extent, with Liberal Democrat representation in Cabinet committees, but we cannot demand our rightful share of power until our seats in Parliament reflect more closely the votes we gained from the public.

A bit of soft-pedalling now is a price worth paying for proper representation later, and I support Paddy Ashdown's refusal to take his eye off the ball. If he is unsuccessful, then "constructive opposition" should cease, and Liberal Democrats should feel no inhibitions about drawing attention to the Stalinist tendencies of New Labour.

The Prime Minister should remember that no Labour government has ever served two full terms and the British public are fickle. It is worth his while to keep his potential coalition partners sweet.
SIMON GAZELEY
Bath

Sir: It is hard to avoid the conclusion that the system of electoral reform being suggested would appear to be more to do with ensuring that the Blair/Ashdown pact continues to maintain a majority for the foreseeable future, rather than offering a radical electoral system which is fair and proportional.

As you rightly claim, the political differences between the two leaderships are becoming hard to distinguish and it would seem only fair to offer the electorate an opportunity for their votes for an alternative, such as the Green Party, to actually mean something. Lord Jenkins has already stated that his proposed system will still allow a party which receives less than 50 per cent of the vote to gain a majority – a rather perverse definition of the term "proportional".

The proposed new system, which is unlikely to be put in place before 2006 – if at all – will guarantee extra seats for Liberal Democrats and yet deny the Conservatives more than they have at present. At the same time, even if 15 per cent of the electorate choose to vote for the Green Party that proportion of the electorate will still be denied any representation in Parliament.
DAVID CROMWELL
Green Party
Southampton, Hampshire

Sir: What exactly is the objection of Lord Jenkins and Tony Blair to fairer and more representative voting through the single transferable vote?

Does Blair think that he will win the next election by an even bigger majority if we stick to first-past-the-post? This government seems to be saying, "We can have PR but it has to be a system that is to our advantage".

It is about time that Blair is put on the spot and is asked what specifically is his opinion on PR. Only then, can we have a proper debate. We need that debate.
IAN WALLACE
ADRIAN SMITH
University of Glamorgan Liberal Democrats
Pontypridd

Sir: You ask, "Why are the Liberal Democrats not leading the charge against the latent racism of the present panic about bogus asylum-seekers?" (leading article, 21 September)

If we were not, you would have a point. However, we are about to debate an emergency motion which condemns the Government for abuse of detention and withdrawal of benefits, and for attempting to deter people who attempt to exercise an undoubted

right to claim asylum. You are right that this is a basic liberal principle. Reports of its death are grossly exaggerated.
RICHARD ALLAN MP
(Sheffield Hallam)

EARL RUSSELL
Dr EVAN HARRIS MP
(Oxford West and Abingdon)
House of Commons
London SW1

Clinton's enemies

Sir: As was to be expected with such an unprecedented and sensationalised event, the release of President Bill Clinton's private grand jury testimony sent the world's media machines into overdrive. The "whole truth" was broadcast in its entirety on most major American networks and much of the evening news around the globe was devoted to the story.

Despite the phenomenal amount of airtime and print devoted to this affair, however, few have sought to answer the most important question. Has the President actually committed a criminal offence, such as perjury or obstruction of justice, that would warrant the start of impeachment proceedings?

Instead the global public were treated to the highlights of the broadcast similar to the highlights of an American football match. Clinton's "game" was broken down in excruciating detail with a blow-by-blow account of his facial expressions, his hair-splitting definitions and his reluctance to answer some very personal and deeply hurtful questions. If the American public is as fed up with this scandal as they would have the world believe, they must start to demand the answers to the real questions.

Still more disturbing was the lack of substantial comment from Capitol Hill. Politicians from both parties are not weighing up the evidence compiled at enormous expense to the taxpayer by the special prosecutor. Instead they

are sitting on the fence waiting for the pollsters to do their work before they decide to support or impeach their president.

This scandal has not shown a weak president who is unfit to rule his country but an intelligent and humane president whose important work has been hindered over the last four years by a vain and fickle Congress and blood-sucking political enemies who have refused to play by the rules.
DANIEL HEAF
London London SE1

Surgeon or plumber

Sir: While sympathising with Dr Bannan's evident hurt at the cost of his recent house move (letter, 18 September), it is difficult to agree with the analogy he draws between the hourly rates of pay of solicitors, plumbers, locksmiths and TV repairers, and the pay of NHS consultants.

NHS consultants are salaried employees with job security and

generous pension arrangements. They pay no overheads for office space, secretarial assistance, stationery, heating, lighting and cleaning, or the capital cost and maintenance of expensive medical equipment with which to ply their trade. It is not unknown for them to complain bitterly about charges for hospital car-parking, however.

NHS consultants retain the right to as much private practice as they can find the time for, secure in the knowledge that they are topping up a monthly pay cheque that arrives in the bank account come what may. Many a solicitor or plumber would jump at such favourable conditions of employment.
Dr F S GOLDBY
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

Sir: It is with a certain irony that I read Hunter Davies' assertion ("Who's making toast if not the nurse? 18 September) that "finding doctors, from anywhere, is a continual headache". Down at

the foot of the medical ladder this just is not true. Junior doctors rotate through the specialities every six months – in the last scramble I finally got a job offer at the 43rd attempt. I was lucky; most of the posts seem to attract well over 100 applicants and some of my colleagues got nothing at all.

So I am intrigued by current moves to train a further 1,000 potentially unemployed medical graduates a year. Why? To anyone contemplating one of these places I can recommend the advice of Dr Bannan (letter, 18 September) – seriously consider becoming a plumber.
Dr SIMON WILLIAMS
Royal Shrewsbury Hospital
Shrewsbury, Shropshire

Sir: May I suggest that Hunter Davies was misled about the numbers of nursing staff on duty during his recent hospital stay?

The minimum status of any qualified registered nurse is that of staff nurse and he stated that there

was "only one staff nurse in the part of the ward I was in". This would imply that the remainder of the staff were unqualified. Some of them may have been student nurses but it is more likely that many of them would be healthcare assistants or nursing auxiliaries.

This may not concern him very much since he was only admitted for minor surgery, but he might have been more concerned had he been receiving treatment for something more serious. The nursing shortage is very real, and we have all become so accustomed to wards being staffed by unqualified staff that we have come to accept this as the norm.

When the extra pairs of hands on the ward were supplied by students, the situation was not quite so dire. Nowadays the bulk of the care in many hospital wards is given by unqualified staff. No matter how caring or hard-working these people may be, the fact remains that there are too few qualified staff to supervise their work adequately.
BARBARA PEARMAN RGN RCV
Kings Lynn, Norfolk

Sir: MC Fitzpatrick (letter, 22 September) makes clear that the Private Finance Initiative is a much more expensive way of providing new hospitals. It will also build in permanent conflict between a company whose priority is the highest rate of return for its shareholders, and the hospitals' professional staff still employed by the NHS, whose priority is the care of patients.

If surgeons have a need to operate at night, the company can veto this on the grounds that it cannot afford overtime payments for theatre cleaners and porters. Hospital staff already complain of feeling overstressed and undervalued. They do not need the extra burden of conflict with a private company.
Dr M I HEATLEY MRCPsych
Oxford

■ We made an error in the transcription of a letter, published yesterday, from Bill Semple, chief executive of National Air Traffic Services Ltd. Mr Semple wrote that the cost of the Swanwick air traffic control system was estimated in 1991 at £462m, not £262m.

IN BRIEF

Audit Office prediction, May 1998) with consequent job losses, the TUC was concerned merely with the proposed extended bank holiday for the end of the century.

For many of their members there will be a "holiday" that extends uncomfortably into the year 2000. Surely those poor workers deserve better representation from their unions.
MARTYN FRIBBENS
London N1

Sir: The view that sex is dirty, adopted, so he says, by some of Rabbi Schmuley Boteach's colleagues, is not "very Christian" ("Thou shalt not seek publicity", 21 September).

Augustine, often quoted as teaching that sex was always shameful, actually thought it potentially dangerous but not uniquely tainted by original sin. He shared the rabbi's commendable wish to keep sex within the bounds of marriage.

I suspect the rabbi has got their idea that sex is smutty from Woody Allen. The Rev PETER HATTON
Droitwich, Hereford and Worcester

■ We made an error in the transcription of a letter, published yesterday, from Bill Semple, chief executive of National Air Traffic Services Ltd. Mr Semple wrote that the cost of the Swanwick air traffic control system was estimated in 1991 at £462m, not £262m.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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One Nation 3: in the run-up to the German elections, anti-socialist graffiti deface a poster of the local SPD candidate in the town of Zarentin, east of Hamburg in the former DDR
Brian Harris

A religious duty

Sir: Circumcision is practised by the largest minority in Britain, two million Muslims, plus hundreds of thousands of practising Jews. Circumcision for boys is a religious duty in Islam, started by the father of the prophets, Abraham, and implemented by the Prophets Moses and Muhammad. The blessed Jesus was circumcised.

For years, we have been requesting the Department of Health to organise this facility through professionally trained doctors (with a small fee to the doctor and the hospital if necessary) in order to avoid "backstreet circumcision" with untrained people or in poor hygienic conditions ("Backstreet circumcisions main boys", 21 September).

We do agree that some cases of circumcisions were not up to standard or had some complications, but the way forward is to recognise this religious need and to make proper provision for it.
Dr A MAJID KATME
Islamic Concern
London N18

Sir: I would like to contribute a female perspective to the circumcision debate.

A circumcised penis is easier to clean, it reduces the risk of cervical cancer and it is far more aesthetically pleasing. These are three valid reasons for removing the foreskin. I cannot think of one good reason for keeping it.

In an age when some cosmetic surgery can be paid for by the NHS, there exists no argument for surgeons to refuse this operation.
ANGELA WEST
Skegness, Lincolnshire

Another Powys

Sir: The article on John Cowper Powys by Clare Garner ("65 years after publication, the sales finally take off", 16 September) caught my eye. In the mid-1950s I worked for one of his brothers, Will Powys, in the Kenya White Highlands during the Mau Mau period.

Will Powys was the only non-writing member of the seven Powys brothers. He moved to Kenya after the First World War. I helped to run his 10,000-acre farm near Timau, on Mount Kenya.

Will Powys' wife Mary (a Bowes Lyon) died in the 1960s, I believe, possibly because of the strain on her heart living at 8,900 feet. Their first son, Charles, died from a gun-shot when placing the weapon in the gun safe. Their daughter married one of Kenya's best wildlife hunters, Tony Dyer, and the younger son, Gilfred, is very much alive and active on behalf of wildlife conservation.

It may well be that researchers into John Cowper Powys and the other brothers should contact Gilfred in case correspondence of a literary value still exists somewhere in far-away Kenya. I recall a library at Kisumu (the main farm, near Timau) but to be frank, to my youthful fleeting glance, John Cowper Powys' novels, like the later Tolkien, seemed to me child-like and trivial, and probably still would.
TIM SYMONDS
London W1

Wrong way round

Sir: Alan Simpson ("The Third Way is a scam", 22 September) overlooks an interesting point about government terminology.

In normal human intellectual development, such as Newton's discovery of gravity or the understanding of DNA, the discovery usually precedes the naming of it. With our present government the contrary seems to be the case. Words or phrases are "discovered" – such as "stakeholder" or "Third Way" – and then only then are people brought together to invent entities to which they may be applied.

This is an extraordinary reversal of the intellectual norms of the last three thousand years and most certainly deserves the epithet "new" if anything ever did.
IAN FLINTOFF
London SW6

Now available to rent or buy: 'Starr Wars' and 'The X-Files'

A LOOK at just some of the new videos which have come on the market this week.

Sex, Lies, Apologies, Evasions, and Videotape
A low-budget comedy in which newcomer Bill Clinton plays a man who is being accused of sexual infidelity. Oddly and rather effectively, you never get to see the accuser, only hear his voice – and that's another odd thing. Why is the accuser a man? Wouldn't the man's wife be the one to accuse him? The cutting is amateur, the camerawork shaky and the editing nonexistent. The effect is peculiarly ambiguous yet powerfully soporific. Not many laughs.

My Summer With Monica
A low-budget comedy in which newcomer Bill Clinton plays an Amer-

ican President who is impeached on charges of sexual harassment. He is given such a hard time by Kenneth Starr, the prosecutor, that finally Starr himself is arrested on charges of sexual harassment of the President. A funny moment, but it takes a long time coming.

Saving Privates
Stephen Spielberg's latest blockbuster in which a squad of hand-picked men go storming into the White House to cover for the President while he mounts a secret assault course. Eventually they come to grief, but everyone has a heap of fun till then.

All the President Means
Nice to see this classic back in circulation again.
Lust in Space

Low budget comedy in which newcomer Bill Clinton plays the part of a man who bets he can seduce a given person in a small alcove of the White House. He does so, but has no witnesses to prove it, so is condemned to repeat the act over and over again until someone believes him. A cross between *Warhog Day* and *Match of the Day*.

All the President's Semen
Nice to see this classic back in circulation again.

The Avengers
Remake of the old classic in which Senator Joe McCarthy and his merry men held the whole of America to ransom. In this update, it's Ken Starr and his merry men who try to paralyse America by cruci-

Low-budget comedy in which newcomer Bill Clinton plays the part of the man accused by nameless prosecutors of having had a passing affair with some girl while at the same time being the most powerful man in the world. It is never quite explained why the most powerful man in the world would agree to such foolish questioning. Small wonder, though, if his answers occasionally become hoarse whispers.

Deconstructing Hillary
Wacky, bittersweet Woody Allen comedy. "Hey, cheer up, Hillary!" he says at one point. "Don't forget that Hillary and hilarious are the same word!" She bursts into tears.

Chelsea Girl
Another wacky, bittersweet Woody Allen comedy. "Hey, cheer up,

Chelsea!" he says at one point. "It isn't everyone who's named after an Italian football team!" "Chelsea is not an Italian team," she says indignantly. "That's how much you know about football," he says.

Starr Wars
A galactic epic in which the evil K Starr takes on the shining radiance of the President in a battle which rages through time, space and 400 boxes of unread evidence.

The X-Files
Those 400 boxes of unread evidence come to the fore again in this sci-fi masterpiece. Could so much testimony really be generated by one inquiry? Or are extra-terrestrials dumping their rubbish on earth? Is the Starr Report actual-

ly the wastebasket of some alien computer system? Has America gone mad? This film quietly poses all the questions but gives none of the answers, rather like a US president.

Close Encounters in the Third Way
Low-budget comedy set in the White House. There are, apparently, two main routes from the Oval Office to the presidential quarters, but there is also a third, little-known and little-used, back corridor in which a president can, if he wishes, have a little discretion and privacy. That's the idea, anyway. In practice things can and do go disastrously and hilariously wrong. Starring newcomer Bill Clinton. I've got a feeling we're going to see a lot more of this man. Or, of course, a lot less.



MILES KINGDON
The effect is peculiarly ambiguous yet powerfully soporific. Not many laughs

ifying the President, but the effect is equally soporific.
The Hoarse Whisperer

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Democracy is more important than the arms trade

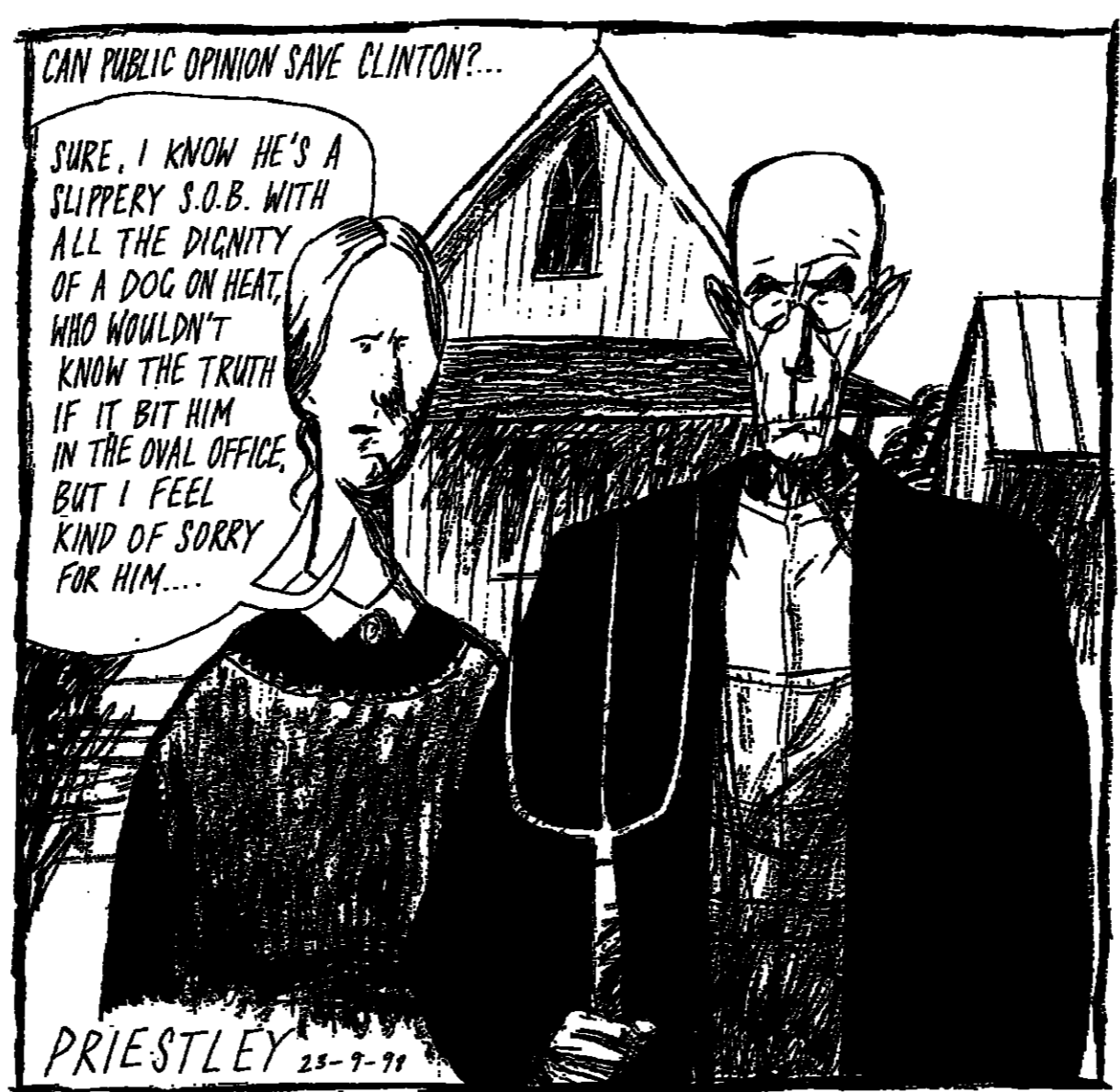
AMNESTY INTERNATIONALS report into Robin Cook's "ethical foreign policy" makes disturbing reading. Amnesty has compiled a list of nations to which Britain still sells arms: Indonesia, still occupying East Timor; Saudi Arabia, imprisoning political dissidents; Turkey, busy cleansing Kurds from its eastern provinces.

To some extent, this is a welcome lesson in reality. It is very difficult to stand aloof in splendid isolation, posing as moral arbiter, especially in Britain's position as a middle-ranking power. Britain has defence links it is difficult to sever without loss of jobs, and commitments any new government cannot simply renege on.

This has been highlighted this week by the Foreign Secretary's embarrassment in Malaysia, forced to shake hands politely and smile as the tyranny run by his hosts crushes opposition. The arrest of Anwar Ibrahim, the former deputy prime minister, and police attacks on demonstrators calling for his release, have been excused by the Malaysian Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad. His logic is that, since he had declared the protests illegal, he was justified in breaking them up. We may be forgiven for thinking that we have had enough of Mr Mohamad's preaching about "Asian values", the supposed set of authoritarian attributes that would bring the Pacific Rim quickly to the centre of the global stage. Not only does his vision look tarnished given the collapse of the "tiger economies"; now the iron fist in the velvet glove has been revealed, at the merest whiff of discontent caused by economic crisis. What he seems to ignore is that economic progress and democracy go together. Markets cannot survive without transparency - and the best way to secure that is accountability to a discerning electorate.

Mr Cook has decided to stay in Malaysia, contrary to his original plan. He was to some extent obliged not to leave the Queen alone, exposed to the charge of tacitly supporting Mr Mohamad. His ability to be diplomatic is a laudable quality in a Foreign Secretary, but not in all cases, and not at all times, especially while dealing with the kind of governments who care about arms more than the welfare of their people. Appeasing them will allow Britain's good name to become tarnished again.

To be fair, Labour's Foreign Office team inherited many of these links. Amnesty itself praises many aspects of Britain's work abroad since May 1997, especially in promoting democracy in the developing world. Clare Short's energy as Secretary of State for Interna-



tional Development has helped to give impetus to this. Amnesty also argues that other departments, especially Defence and Trade and Industry, have undermined the Foreign Office and promoted Britain's arms traders.

Those departments, though, are supposed to work under Foreign Office guidelines: if they are not, this is another example of the lack of grip that Mr Cook exhibited in the arms-to-Sierra Leone saga. Then, his department was allowed to drift into giving mercenaries the impression that their activities had official sanction. Now, his silence allows the impression that Malaysia can pass as many draconian security laws

as it wants, and still enjoy royal visits and British arms export guarantees.

The Foreign Office will always have to deal with regimes which abuse human rights, even if only to exercise some restraining influence. But it does not have to stay silent about their crimes in public. And it does not have to sell them arms. Tax-payers' money should not cover the losses of arms companies while the world's poor need self-sufficiency in clean food and water. And only the most short-sighted believe that arms exports are worth more in terms of British interests than by democracy and stability rolling out across Asia and the globe.

Will civics teaching make a good subject?

MINISTERS' COMMITTEES are not always just a means of placing problems on the back burner. Their members, such as Professor Bernard Crick, can come up with good ideas too. Those in today's report of the group advising David Blunkett on Education for Citizenship and the Teaching of Democracy in Schools are especially welcome.

"Civics" - classes in citizenship conducted in schools - are a part of the life of other democratic nations. British schools have not been so enlightened as their American or European counterparts. Such classes now look to have a future in Britain, given Mr Blunkett's enthusiastic response to the report. This is all to the good. Britons, as Crown subjects rather than equal citizens, living in a relatively old nation which did not feel the need to bind together polyglot races, have ignored questions about their identity, and neglected their communal life, for far too long.

Civics classes will not suddenly transform this situation; it is caused by social change that education alone cannot reverse. Access to diverting entertainments, and the decay of class bonds, has meant politics has less and less relevance to daily life.

But some action is imperative; more than 80 per cent of teenagers polled recently knew only a little, or less, about Parliament. This is evidence of a wider problem: in fact, not many citizens trust politicians, and only a few more even care about what they do.

Turnouts in all types of elections continue to fall, as all parties' membership go on slowly declining. How is good government to be conducted in the midst of such indifference?

Teachers, already overburdened, cannot be expected to clean up all our problems; but school is the only place where the mechanics of our collective life can be taught systematically. Best practice already incorporates current affairs discussions in the syllabus: for all our sakes, schools attended by the majority of our children should not lag too far behind.

Cavalier laundering

For centuries, the Royal Library has housed what was believed to be the shirt in which King Charles I was executed. But costume experts at the V&A have revealed that the gory garment is a lady's nightdress, and the "bloodstains" are in fact ironing marks. The hunt is now on for the original shirt - perhaps with a low neckline - that got swapped in the palace laundry.

Please, my comrade prigs, don't let the far right win

SO AMERICA fiddled while the world burned. Demonstrations were broken up on the skyscraper-lined streets of Kuala Lumpur, as President Clinton's taped evidence on the Lewinsky affair was played on American TV. Journalists covering the story - clamorously penned together in hot studios, steamy newsrooms and humid press conferences - went quietly mad.

One senior BBC man, covering Clinton's address to the General Assembly of the United Nations, spoke of how the 26 heads of state and 100 plus ambassadors gathered there were "bit part actors on the edge of the real drama". One wonders what the listening President Mandela, who had probably already sanctioned his country's military intervention in Lesotho yesterday, and who has been desperately attempting to broker a peace in the Congo, made of being sidelined by the "real drama" of cigars and genitalia?

A charnelous barminess has now set in. On Monday I heard at least three respected journalists talking excitedly about Mr Clinton's videotape evidence. Of course, the tape was not live at all, it was a month old. But that does not sound half so exciting, does it? And because no one can quite believe the polls, and their steady support for Bill, every diner and mall in Middle America - from Butte to Buffalo - seems to have a foreign reporter in it interrupting eggs easy-over to discover whether their statistically worthless consumers think Mr Clinton should sling his priapic hook.

Other moments to treasure include the description on TV bulletins of Ms Lewinsky's little blue number

being "stained with DNA" (an all-purpose euphemism that will surely find its way into Persil ads); the prosecutorial question that ran, "Mr President, if there is a semen stain belonging to you on a dress belonging to Miss Lewinsky, how would you explain that?" ("Well, Mr Prosecutor, when a boy reaches puberty, his...") and the moment when former White House aide, Harold Ickes (whose name, I had always believed, was pronounced like David Icke's), was introduced to British viewers as "Mr Icky".

We are all Mr Ickys now. True, we are forced to concede, the President of the United States did win a standing ovation at the UN, but might this not have been a case of the National Union of World Statesmen protecting their own? And true, these polls are beginning to look suspiciously like the settled mind of the American people. But, on the whole - left and right - we still think that fibbing Bill ought to go.

The leftist version of this is to express anger at Clinton's squandering of his own opportunity to "make a difference". In 1992 the man from Hope arrived with his talk of health care reform and fundamental change - and six years later the poor are still poor, still uneducated and they still cannot get decent health care. Moreover Clinton's America is still awash with guns and still regards itself as the world's policeman, with bombing rights over most of the globe.

He is - so this argument goes - incontinent, self-indulgent and a menace to women everywhere: Gennifer Flowers, Paula Jones, Katherine Willey, Monica Lewinsky. And he lies. So, Clinton is not a man that liberals should feel any need to support.

DAVID AARONOVITCH
This week I looked upon the leader of the American Taliban, Ken Starr, and I knew my enemy

Why then is it, feeling the tug of this argument as I do, that as I watched Clinton on Monday and listened to the Republicans lined up in the various studios, I began to believe more strongly than ever that he must under no circumstances resign, and that any sensible liberal must defend him?

There is a strain of the left that is, and always has been, priggish. It dislikes the compromises associated with office and is offended by the business of politics in general, and the exercise of power in particular.

Like Dickens's preaching Mr Honeythunder in *Edwin Drood*, it tends to love humanity but not humans. It will march happily alongside a new government for the first gay steps of its incumbency, but will go and sit on a fallen log and moan loudly, as soon as the road becomes stony.

I almost forbear from pointing out to my comrade prigs that, judging

from the Lewinsky case, Clinton does not seem to be a sexual harasser or even particularly predatory. And Monica's evidence suggests that he practises as much self-deception as he does deception of others. This is not new. Many men and women I have known believed that if they stopped short of full intercourse with someone other than their partner, then they had somehow not "gone the whole way".

But my main reason for asking the prigs to reconsider, is because I have a vivid mental picture of an America in which Clinton does not occupy the White House, and in which the Far Right, which dominates the Republican party, is in the unchallenged ascendancy. This week I gazed upon the countenance of the leader of America's Taliban, Ken Starr, and witnessed that apocalyptic procession of bony harpies and lizard lawyers that is the Republican Right - and I knew my enemy.

These are not folk who care about the "truth". Their presidential candidate at the 96 election, Bob Dole, fought like hell against Nixon's impeachment. When *The Washington Post* was publishing its revelations about the Nixon White House, Dole talked of a "cultural and social affinity" between the journalists and the left wing of the Democratic party, which was leading them to bring the President down.

Now it is payback time. These were guys who batted nary an eyelid at the CIA's involvement in the coup against Salvador Allende's democratic government in Chile in 1973, and who we will not expect to see marking the 25th anniversary of the murder of singer Victor Jara in the

sports stadium in Santiago. And these are the politicians who voted for an end to affirmative action for American blacks, and in favour of guns, tobacco companies and environmental degradation.

Just this week the Republicans in Congress have been arguing to cut appropriations for family planning initiatives in America and the Third World, for fighting pollution and the spoilage of the Florida Everglades, for home heating assistance for the poor. And to spend the current budget surplus on a middle class tax break for married couples, rather than on Social Security retirement benefits for America's impoverished old.

They are also increasingly in favour of the protectionism which, interestingly, leftwing Labour MP Alan Simpson so spiritedly advocated in these pages yesterday. But, above all, they are *Kulturkampfer*, for whom the word "liberal" is still a term of abuse. They wish to turn the social clock back to the good old days of Joe McCarthy and Howard Hughes, on abortion, on race, on homosexuality. As the Lewinsky case has shown, they talk about sex in the same prurient, obsessive, disgusted, detailed fashion that homophobes discuss buggery. They are first cousins to Osama bin Laden, to Ian Paisley, to the Holy Inquisition and to Ann Widdecombe.

So yes, Clinton has proved himself to be a lying bastard. But he is our lying bastard. And that is why, at the end of Monica Lewinsky's testimony, it was not Clinton that she cursed, but the curtain-twitching, tape-recording, mendacious, upright heroine of the Starr chamber, "I hate Linda Tripp", said Monica. And then she cried.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I cannot accept a man who is a sodomist as leader of the country."
Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, on his sacked deputy, Anwar Ibrahim

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Beauty in things exists in the mind which contemplates them."
David Hume, Scottish philosopher



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WHAT PRICE will President Clinton pay? Impeachment seems rather harsh, and censure by Congress meaningless. If Congress, representing the American people, really finds Clinton's behaviour to be unacceptable, they should ask him to take a voluntary leave of absence for two months. This would humiliate him for a short period of time while also allowing him to continue his term of office. The genius of American civilisation is that it has always combined serious

concepts of governance with examples of public criminality and personal frivolity. We should enjoy the entertainment in the latter and draw useful lessons from the former. *The Jordan Times*

IT is quite inadmissible that while the President is addressing the UN, which looks to him to come up with a strategy for dealing with existential problems of peace and hunger in the world, that the man on the street is following his con-

tortions, his inarticulacy, and his anatomical hair-splitting worthy only of a green seminarist hauled before the Inquisition. *Corriere della Sera, Italy*

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
International comment on the presidential crisis



CLINTON MAY be guilty of recklessness and poor judgment of behaviour which has undermined the dignity and authority of his office, but this scarcely merits impeachment or resig-

nation. The hope now must be that after this much-hyped broadcast, America will put the impeachment issue to one side. The need for strong and effective international leadership from the US on world economy, on the Middle East, Russia - and not least in helping to consolidate the progress here - could scarcely be more apparent. *The Irish Times*

THIS IS the White House meets national peep show. It makes

Oprah-style revelations look old-fashioned. Most Americans are already embarrassed for their country. They like to be proud of their President, confident in America's power and prestige. Now they sense that the President and the US are becoming an international joke. They realise the US is showing the way to the 21st century in a different way than Mr Clinton envisaged when he announced his second term would be the bridge to the millennium. *Sydney Morning Herald*

PANDORA

SOCIAL HIGHLIGHT of next week's Labour Party conference will be the Conference Dinner at the Stakis Blackpool hotel on Tuesday, following Tony Blair's afternoon address. Although the £2,000 tables have all sold out, don't look for many Labour-supporting corporate bigshots to attend. In fact, many of the tables will be filled with low-ranking employees of lobbying and PR firms, who have told their clients not to risk exposure in the press after Labour's Croyange controversy earlier this year. Pandora suggests that next year Labour can raise even more money by holding a "conference dinner" where phantom guests banquet at empty tables on invisible smoked salmon.

MADONNA HAS no intention of sending her daughter Lourdes to Cheltenham Ladies College, despite recent newspaper stories to that effect, including one in Monday's Guardian. "It's not true. She hasn't applied to the school. It's not the kind of place where she'd send Lourdes," her spokeswoman, Liz Rosenberg, said yesterday. Rosenberg also denied that Madonna was moving to London. A fax from Kim Hill at the college reached Pandora yesterday, saying, "This story sprang from the pen of a journalist at The Sunday Express to whom I have never spoken and who, presumably following some lead, asked for our views were Madonna to send her daughter here... I have never confirmed that Lourdes is registered with us since we never disclose the names of current and future pupils."

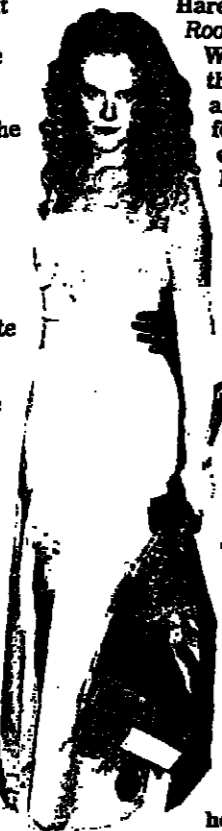
ONE PAST Cheltenham pupil, Express editor Rosie Boycott, will comprise half of an irresistible fringe double bill when she appears at next week's Labour conference on stage with Derek Draper, whom she sacked a few months back. The two feature in the *New Statesman's* fringe meeting on media and politics. Will Derek be submitting his opening remarks to Mandy for pre-debate vetting? Will Rosie have Philip Gould polling the audience afterwards to determine the winner?

THE PARTY conference season always means a mad scramble for accommodation, and woe betide any delegate who leaves it late. However one Liberal Democrat MP has a unique way

to avoid the fuss. Peter Brand, MP for the Isle of Wight, travelled to Brighton in his boat and moored it at the marina. "It only took two hours to travel from the island. I can take the number 7 bus from there to the conference centre," he told Pandora. The pipe-smoking skipper/politician actually lives on his boat in London when the Commons is in session. However, all indications are that Brand will be coming ashore for next year's Lib Dem conference. It's being held in Harrogate, 47 miles from the North Sea.

AS THE world gawks at the President of the United States, Hollywood star Michael Douglas, whose marriage ended after celebrated bouts of adultery and treatment for "sex-addiction", has been seen on the town in New York with Maureen Dowd, the moralistic New York Times columnist who, not long ago, likened Clinton to "the Devil". Pandora is not usually concerned with such tittle-tattle, but this budding new relationship might help to explain why Dowd, a Roman Catholic who has savaged the President in the past for his Zippertage lapses, has suddenly had an amazing change of heart. After the Starr report was made public, Dowd actually wrote a column defending Clinton, saying the report was not grounds for impeachment. This was followed on Tuesday by her column accusing Starr of treating Clinton like a gangster. Odd times create odd couples.

THE GALLAGHER brothers may have just cause in feeling resentment towards talented actress Nicole Kidman (pictured), who opened last night in David Hare's play *The Blue Room* at the Donmar Warehouse. After all the criticism Liam and Noel attracted for their frank views on drug usage, will Nicole escape censure after telling US magazine *Movieline*, "I've never done LSD, but yeah, I've done my share of drugs." She goes on to say that working in the film industry has brought her "in contact with every drug imaginable." Today, quips the wife of Tom Cruise, "I'm addicted to adrenaline". No doubt last night's opening at the Donmar in front of London's tough theatre critics must have given her a healthy rush.



As the judge said, keep sex out of it



ANTHONY SCRIVENER QC

To the ordinary spouse seeking a divorce 'sexual relations' meant the full works and nothing less

A pair of binoculars, the minute examination of hotel regulars by handwriting experts, the examination of the bed sheets by forensic scientists. I recall one enquiry agent who had invented a device which resembled an ancient bed warmer which when inserted into a recently vacated bed would reveal whether one or two persons had been the occupants. The great mass of divorces were

undefended but the petitioner for divorce had to give evidence of a matrimonial offence. As to adultery, if you had not got a confession statement taken by an enquiry agent carrying one of those small portable typewriters from which they were never separated, then the evidence must prove inclination and opportunity. Throughout this period, to the ordinary spouse seeking a divorce "sexual relations" meant the full works and nothing less. For some reason the ordinary person did not like using the term "sexual intercourse". It did not come naturally.

Of course there were other terms in common use to describe the full works: "making love" is generally accepted as denoting sexual intercourse. I recall the *News of the World* used to use that delicate word "intimacy" to describe it. I once had a problem with a farmer in an undefended divorce case who came home unexpectedly after milking to find his wife having sex (another description in common use) on the kitchen table with the grain-fed lorry driver. When giving evidence he said: "I came home early and found my mis-

sus on the job on the kitchen table." This caused the elderly judge to remove his spectacles and ask: "What job was that?"

"You know -" said the farmer, "the job."

I decided to intervene to prevent the case going into a second day. "Do you mean sexual intercourse?" I said hopefully.

This provoked a rebuke from the judge, who said I had no business asking a question which suggested the answer to the witness. It certainly did, but it did save a lot of time.

If you think about it, using "sexual relations" to describe sexual intercourse is logically correct. To substantiate this contention I shall have to use coded grown-up language or else the *Daily Mail* will condemn this journal as pornographic (which might increase the circulation still further, I suppose).

Does a full-blown teenage slobbery kiss constitute "sexual relations"? Are youngsters viewing the difference behind the Nissen hut having sexual relations? Must it involve removing clothing, or is it covered by what grandma used to call "being rude"?

There are obviously many borderline cases if you try to use "sexual relations" to denote every activity with a sexual intent. Placing a hand on a girl's knee would presumably constitute "sexual relations" if the perpetrator has sex on his mind.

How is the anxious OAP seeking a prescription for Viagra to answer the prying question of his GP? Does he admit to having sexual relations currently or not? Will this reduce his chances of getting it (if you'll excuse the expression)?

At the very least "sexual relations" is not clear-cut. I remember the newly wed husband complaining that his honeymoon was a disappointment as he had waited all night for his sexual relations to arrive but they did not come (if you'll excuse the expression).

So I contend that the President was correct. "Sexual relations" means sexual intercourse. What on earth President Clinton's sexual relations have to do with his ability to be an excellent president, only some Republicans apparently can tell, but most lawyers would agree with his definition of the term.

When will we get democracy back in the Labour Party?



KEN LIVINGSTONE

In this new women friendly NEC I have spent the year in meetings about disciplinary actions

YESTERDAY WAS the last full meeting in my brief career as a member of Labour's National Executive Committee (NEC). Following my unexpected defeat of Peter Mandelson for the vacant place last year, new rules make it impossible for me to repeat this wondrous trick. As readers will be aware from the row that has rumbled on in the pages of *The Independent*, the six places in the new constituency section are barred to MPs. In future, three MPs will be elected by and from Labour's MPs and MEPs. While Dennis Skinner's popularity is likely to allow him to snatch one of these three places, I will be joining Diane Abbott in the new category of NEC members in exile, awaiting the restoration of full democracy to the Labour Party.

In my eight-year absence from the NEC I was assured that the whole climate had changed following the party rule that 50 per cent of members had to be women. When I was a member from 1987 to 1989 the meetings were dominated by endless reports of disciplinary actions as party officials unearthed one teenager after another caught selling copies of *Milktart* in places as far apart as Liverpool and Louthian. This invariably led to bad-tempered debates in which the male-dominated trade union section rubber-stamped Neil Kinnock's proposals and crushed the opposition of the left.

However, in this new woman-friendly NEC, I seem to have spent the last year at meetings dominated by endless reports of disciplinary actions as party officials unearthed one Old Labour member after another on councils as far apart as Liverpool and Louthian. This invariably led to bad-tempered debates in which the gender-balanced trade union section rubber-stamped Tony

Blair's proposals and crushed the opposition of the left. Instead of the NEC being a vital area of policy debate it has largely been reduced to a cross between the role of police informer and a collection of narrow-minded magistrates.

Before my NEC colleagues rush to point out that the role of policy formation has been devolved to the newly created policy forums, let me remind them I have attended the two of these that have taken place in the last year. Much touted as a better way of creating policy than the debates at the annual conference, the policy forums are, in reality, totally dominated by the party machine, with the role of ordinary members reduced to a derisory level of input. In the past, dozens of separate motions would be submitted, and these would be boiled down after a process of "compositing" so that, on most big issues, the delegates to conference would have a choice of two or three motions to choose from after a debate. However imperfect, it did mean that party

policy had been rigorously debated at all levels of the membership.

Over the last 12 months on the national policy forum it has been left to barely a dozen ordinary members to represent all 400,000 party members in debates that have taken place behind closed doors. On each of the separate committees looking at a separate area of policy it has been ministers who, with their civil service support, have dominated the process. This has led to the production of fairly bland documents that have then been passed to the membership to discuss without any right of amendment.

We have been promised that, in future years, members of each policy commission will be able to submit minority reports that might be voted on at conference. It only takes a moment to realise how difficult it will be for ordinary party members with no resources to produce documents capable of rivaling those produced with the help of the Whitehall machine. Even if such reports can be produced, by the time they get to conference their authors will face a barrage of appeals to party unity. Their chances of overturning the official Government line will be pretty remote.

The Milbank Tendency claims that this new system will avert the damaging rows that lost us elections in the Eighties. Of course, the sort of internal civil war that ripped the Tories apart on Europe will lead to defeat, but recent history shows that, when the party conference disagreed with Labour governments it was invariably the conference that turned out to have been right, as Denis Healey bravely pointed out in his autobiography. From the Wilson government's slavish support of American policy in Vietnam through to Jim Callaghan's obstinate demand for a fourth year of wage



Tony Blair cosies up to conference supporter Denis Healey PA

restraint in 1978, it was the gut instincts of ordinary party members that were proved right.

Yesterday's NEC shows we have not learnt this lesson. During the four-hour meeting we spent just two minutes discussing transport policy, endorsing John Prescott's proposals. The rest of the meeting involved endorsing the general secretary's conduct of the ballot for the NEC, rubber-stamping a decision to purge MEPs who share Labour's traditional values by placing them in unwinnable positions in the voting-list system, endorsing the leadership's choice as candidates for First Ministers in the new Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly and nodding through a variety of disciplinary actions.

I suspect that none of the decisions we took yesterday would have any really decisive influence in Tony Blair's battle to win a second term. My fear is that the outcome of the next election will be determined by the issues raised in the short but excellent debate we had on the economic policies of the Government.

I reminded the Prime Minister that, at my first NEC meeting a year ago, I had warned him that there was every possibility of a recession coming. In response, he rolled his eyes to heaven and joked that I was always predicting doom and gloom. Yesterday David Blunkett told us that the economic fundamentals were sound and we were in danger of talking ourselves into a recession.

Quite the reverse is true. The combination of high interest rates and a strong pound leave us more exposed to the impact of the international economic crisis than we need be. Yesterday's brief exchange at the NEC should be happening at every level of the Labour Party and the trade unions, but it can't because, in a bizarre and inexplicable decision, the policy forum has decided to put off any discussion on economic policy during the last 12 months. If Labour fails to gain its second term, then the seeds of that defeat will have been sown in the decision to deter the party from an open debate on economic policy in the years when it mattered.

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No such thing as regional conflict

TODAY'S WORLD offers one clear lesson. To survive and prosper, we have to work together better. The challenges we face can be met in no other way. We share a global environment. We depend on each other for development and prosperity. Regional conflicts affect us all. Our peoples suffer together under the shadow of drugs and terrorism. We can no longer separate what we want to achieve within our borders from what we face across our borders.

If our finance, trade, media, communications and even our culture is, day by day, more and more transnational, it would be strange and politically dangerous if our politics remained in compartments built just after the Second World War. The challenge is international. The response must be international. We must launch a new era of international partnership in which we modernise those institutions that allow us to co-operate and work together.

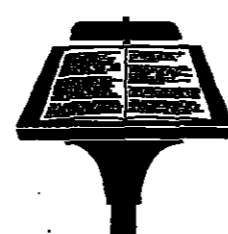
So I believe in the United Nations. But I also believe it must modernise urgently. All parts of the UN need proper accountability, to go with secure

funding, better management and more effective co-ordination in all their activities.

The world has high expectations of the UN as the guardian of global peace and security. The UN should not get involved if regional organisations are better able to tackle a local conflict. But sometimes we must demonstrate a collective global will. And if we act, we must act decisively. We need clear principles, not inadequate commitment and muddled objectives. Let me set out four:

First, prevention is always better than cure. Resources spent on averting conflict are tiny compared to the expense of peace-keeping once the guns fire.

Second, where we do have to send in the blue helmets, they should be given a clear and achievable task. There must be no repeat of Bosnia. Peace-keepers were inserted into a live conflict, and told to make "safe areas" safe. But they were not given the means to do so. UN peace-keepers need a way out as well as a way in. They must have the tools to do the job, and clear and effective command and control.



PODIUM

TONY BLAIR
From a speech delivered by the Prime Minister to the United Nations General Assembly in New York

Third, the UN needs to be able to act fast. Fast action can prevent conflict escalating underpin a fragile truce, save lives. This is not a question of pious wishes but of practical readiness. I announce today that within six months we [the UK] will conclude a specific agreement with the UN to ensure that it can make rapid use of what we have to offer when it's needed - the first such by a permanent member.

Fourth, peace-keeping must be accompanied from the start by peace-building, to restore justice, democratic institutions, prosperity and human rights. Too often the Security Council deals with the symptoms of conflict but not with its causes. It needs to work with the rest of the UN, the World Bank and the IMF if it is to have lasting impact. I will be asking the Secretary-General to put to us new proposals to make this a reality.

Too many conflicts still rage. There are few higher priorities than restoring peace to the Great Lakes region [of Africa]. I am convinced the UN can play a crucial role in support of regional efforts and strongly encourage it to do so.

The Middle East remains profoundly worrying. I believe even seemingly intractable conflicts can be tackled successfully. We [in the UK] have made progress in Northern Ireland - and I thank all those around the world who have supported us and encouraged us in this. Now is the time for a further move forward in the Middle East peace process too. We are ready to play our part in bringing this about.

But I want to mention today another area of urgent concern: Kosovo. It almost defies belief that the security forces of President Milosevic are ignoring the clear will of the international community and inflicting brutality and repression on those they claim to see as their fellow citizens, nothing can justify scorched earth tactics and the forcible creation of hundreds of thousands of refugees. We propose a new Security Council Resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire and demanding an urgent end to the trampling on the rights of the inhabitants of Kosovo.

I have ranged widely but my point is simple: we face multiple new challenges as we approach a new century. Our only hope of tackling them successfully is tackling them together. We need political will and a sense of urgency. The problems of our modern world are too pressing, their consequences too immediate, their impact too far reaching for us to hesitate or to look away any longer. We are being given a warning: to act, to give purpose and direction. And the time to do it is now.

Live fast, die young

THE EARLY death of the extraordinary sprinter Florence Griffith-Joyner, almost ten years to the day since the first of her three gold medals at the Olympic Games in Seoul, has raised again all the old suggestions that her success was based on performance enhancing drugs.

Indeed her very death at 38 has aroused the spectre - so worrying to many another athlete who has done the same thing - that this too was due to drugs. It was ironic that, on the same day as her death, the man with whom she will be perpetually linked in the annals of athletic speedsters, Ben Johnson was in a Toronto court trying to get his life-han for sports drug taking overturned. He was unsuccessful, and will remain, even more than the whole East German state-controlled doping system and the demonised Chinese athletes, the scapegoat for doping in Olympic sports, particularly athletics. The only difference in many people's minds, including this writer's, is that Johnson was caught.

Although many people might doubt it, journalists, like second-hand car salesmen and politicians, are human too.

When we see great performances, we respond enthusiastically. Yet the silence that invaded the press box in the Seoul stadium, when Griffith-Joyner ran a record-shattering 21.34 seconds to win the Olympic 200 metres 10 years ago was not awestruck, it was despairing.

Barely had Johnson fled Seoul in disgrace when his female peer was making a further mockery of the sport.

I first met Griffith-Joyner in 1985, when she was already a world championships silver medalist, albeit far from being as quick as the likes of her colleague, Evelyn Ashford, and a variety of East German sprinters, such as Marlies Gohr, Silke Gladisch and Heike Drechsler. At that time, Flo-Jo as she was nick-named later, at the height of her fame, was one of the most beautiful women I had ever seen, petite, oval-faced with unblemished skin.

It would be three years before I would get as close to her again, in Seoul 1988, by which time she had metamorphosed. Apart from the overall muscular definition and diminution of breasts, her jaw had elongated, a condition called acromegaly, known to be an effect of Human Growth Hormone. She wore thick pan-stick make-up, to cover the widespread acne, a side-effect of male hormones, and her voice had deepened substantially.

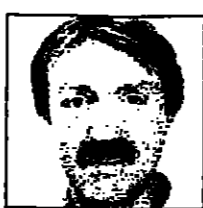
But she was not the only woman competitor in Seoul manifesting such startling changes. There was a British performer among them.

That, perhaps, as much as the sacrifice of Johnson, prompted the International Olympic Committee and International Amateur Athletic Federation to tighten up their drug-testing procedures.

Performances dropped off drastically in those events which benefited most from anabolic steroids.

But Pandora's medicine chest was not going to be closed so easily. Athletes, already earning substantial sums of money, began to invest in the undetectable substances, such as Testosterone, Human Growth Hormone, and later, following the cyclists' lead, Erythropoietin or EPO, the Tour de France drug of choice.

In a professional sportsworld increasingly dominated by television sales and ratings, Ben Johnson's latest manager asks pertinently what message the athletics authorities are giving to competitors when



PAT BUTCHER

Barely had Ben Johnson fled Seoul than Flo-Jo, his female counterpart, was making a further mockery of the sport

they offer a million dollars for breaking a world record. The response of IAAF President, Primo Nebiolo may be judged from a quote at last year's World Championships in Athens. "I am tired of discussing the problem of doping. I like these great events, these championships with their young people. Spending so much time following the pee-pee (urine testing) for me is not nice".

The use of performance-enhancing drugs in Olympic sports probably began in the mid-1950s on the west coast of the United States. Anabolic steroids had been developed to assist concentration camp victims restore wasted bone.

Body builders soon realised the drugs' potential, and the hammer and discus throwers, and shot putters who attended the muscle beaches soon latched on. It took the authorities until 1975, to institute bans.

In the interim, the Eastern Bloc had responded with their own drugs programmes. The big two-nation matches, USA v USSR were still in vogue at the time, as inter-Olympic competitions. Drugs quickly became the currency of the cold war as it was played out in the Olympic arena.

One of the best witnesses of the outcome of this was Dr Robert Voy, who resigned as Chief Medical Officer of the US Olympic Committee almost ten years ago, when he felt he was being given no encouragement.

In his revelatory book, *Drugs, Sport and Politics*, Voy wrote, "I understood that many people at the USOC were in the business for one reason: to bring home the gold. Just how the athletes accomplished that, well, few cared."

Voy's book is chock full of instances of US competitors in a variety of sports being exonerated without the offence ever being made public, the corollary to which is, and again this is a personal view, had Ben Johnson been a US rather than a Canadian athlete, he would not have been busted in Seoul, and would either have retired a hero, or even still been competing at 38.

The US Olympic Committee, and the US television networks hold sway over the Olympic movement. Canada comes somewhere down the list, ergo Johnson was expendable. This view was bolstered for many others when Flo-Jo retired barely six months after Seoul, on the threshold of making millions of dollars in appearance money.

Ten years after, performances, inevitably, are creeping up again, or speeding ahead in the case of distance running. That is partly natural, barriers are there to be broken, albeit Flo-Jo's and Ben-Jo's remain intact. But drug legislation is weak and divided. For example baseball hero, Mark McGwire can happily take Androstenedione, a relatively weak androgen, to help him slug his



Flo-Jo was not the only female athlete at the Seoul Olympics manifesting startling physical changes

record breaking number of home runs, while practically every other sport, Olympic or otherwise bans it.

More frighteningly, Dr Gabriele Rosa, an athletics coach, who used to work with cyclists, recently reported a spate of operations on cyclists, to enlarge their iliac artery (in the hip) to increase blood flow.

"What is more worrying," says Rosa, "is that taking EPO has reached such a level that many cyclists are sleeping with heart-rate monitors. "If their pulse drops below 25 beats a minute, a buzzer wakes them, and

they get on an exercise bike to bring it back from the danger zone".

This is due to the thickening of blood caused by EPO, and up to a score of cyclists are believed to have died. Yet this year's Tour de France revelations are due entirely to the French police and judiciary. It should be a rule of thumb that no sports federation be involved in doping testing its competitors, arbitrating the results, or deciding on the penalties. It is even less in their interests to ban miscreants now than it was ten years ago.

At a press conference in Tokyo, immediately after Seoul, the deposed Olympic 100 metres champion, Evelyn Ashford turned on us angrily after another Flo-Jo exposition of the "five-thousand-sit-ups-a-day" reason for improvement. "Why don't you guys write the real story?" demanded Ashford, unaware perhaps of the niceties of libel laws. Well Evelyn, with due respect to the dead, here it is!

The author is at work on a documentary on what makes Kenyans such great runners

RIGHT OF REPLY

JOAN CLANCHY

The former head of North London Collegiate School reacts to criticisms of independent girls schools

THE MANY jokey bits in Terence Blacker's piece following up Madonna's rumoured choice of school for her daughter ("A few parenting tips for Madonna", in yesterday's *Independent*) do not provide complete cover for his anxiety in the face of confident women.

His complaints about Cheltenham Ladies College are that the girls are too efficient, speak too clearly, are too assertive and do not have sexual experience young enough. The supporting evidence he gives about daily hockey and hymns, sixth-form dances and girls' pashes is 30 years out of date. The efficiency and confidence the students achieve, which makes him so nervous, comes from work-in-the-community projects, early self-reliance and self-discovery through music, art, drama and learning. There is frequent contact at all stages with local boys schools. Discos are one of many shared activities; they are supervised because all schools accept that as a responsibility.

Cheltenham offers a hugely privileged way of life for 13- to 19-year-olds. Its speciality is to nurture girls' confidence. How necessary this is still is shown by the kind of unreconstructed sexist rubbish that Mr Blacker rattled off yesterday. It is a low trick to accuse girls from such schools of being frigid because efforts are made to dissuade them from early sexual experience. Does he not know that the best fruits are the slow ripening ones not those from hot houses?

Five years ago a BBC film was made about a week's exchange between students from a mixed comprehensive and an independent girls school. The producer seemed to have Mr Blacker's agenda of sneering at bossy girls. But when the week was over the producer quietly filled in an application form for his daughter.

A masterpiece of ordinary life



IT ONLY takes about half an hour to read Raymond Briggs' moving and affectionate *Ethel & Ernest*. But the next reading lasts longer, and the one after that even more. For this is no ordinary book, although at first sight it could pass for one. Open any page, and there is immediate colour, shape and atmosphere: this is a strip-cartoon story, and if ever a book is going to be a best-seller, it must surely be this one.

Although Raymond Briggs has previously aimed most of his work at children, this is an adult book. Like his *When the Wind Blows*, it concentrates on ordinary people doing their best while living through events over which they have little or no control. But this biographical account of the author's own parents is no polemic. It focuses chiefly on domestic detail, starting with the couple's chance meeting in 1928 when Ernest, biking to work as a milkman, believes that Ethel, a lady's maid, is waving at him from a window. He waves back, and although she was only shaking out a duster, this eventually leads to marriage, childbirth, middle age and finally death. Both his parents died in 1971.

G.K. Chesterton always insisted that what passes for ordinary life is full of romance once seen with fresh eyes. *Ethel & Ernest* bears this out. Married life in the same house for 41 years might sound uneventful, but it comes over here as a time of quite enormous change. The arrival of relative prosperity after poverty and war is seen for what it is: a near-miracle in the lives of those who never believed they were owed anything or would ever get much. This book would certainly qualify as social history for the National Curriculum in schools. For older readers, the events illustrated on every page raise hosts of memories.

Briggs' draughtsmanship is faultless. He goes for total realism in his attention to detail, yet sometimes allows his characters to change shape,



WEDNESDAY BOOK

ETHEL & ERNEST: A TRUE STORY
BY RAYMOND BRIGGS, JONATHAN CAPE, £14.99

according to mood. When his father has an outburst of temper, his face partially disintegrates. When the couple kiss and make up, as they always do, their heads extend almost grotesquely towards each other: a visual metaphor for their abiding love. When Ethel makes one of her snobbish remarks ("Ernest, don't sing those dreadful Cockney songs"), her nose literally sticks up in the air.

The style of Briggs' hand-lettered

captions also reflects changes in meaning and atmosphere. Whenever Ethel refers to her son's grammar school, the words are picked out in mock capitals consistent with her own state of awe-struck pride. The strip-cartoons themselves constantly vary in size and perspective: 15 frames on one page may be followed by a single picture on the next.

There are some tough moments. Ethel is shown having a bad time in labour and finally lying dead in a hospital morgue. But the prevailing mood is gentle, loving and often very funny. Ernest is doctrinaire left-wing. Ethel innately conservative. Their arguments are also comic dialogues, whether about Hitler, the Beveridge Report, coal nationalisation, the Green Belt or the absence of a haircut on their artist son (Briggs himself, of course, who also plays a large part in the story).

The couple has an innocence worth any amount of sour knowingsness. When Ethel says, after hearing that war is declared, "Why can't they all just be like us and live in peace?" she speaks for everyone caught up in a dangerous world not of their making. Neither is shown as perfect: Ernest is sometimes jealous of his son's success, and Ethel is cold to her husband's amiable working-class step-mother, who arrives bearing some coal wrapped in newspaper "an' a couple of bottles of stout". Yet fundamentally these are good people, and this book is an unforgettable tribute to them and to others living through this fast-changing period.

NICHOLAS TUCKER

WEDNESDAY POEM

SELF PORTRAIT
BY IAN MACMILLAN

Face a red planet
smudged by glasses, he's
slumped in the bus seat

As the sun rises, illuminating
the little bits of whisker
he's missed, iron filings

On the nodding red planet.
How small his hands are.
How Elvis his hair is.

He may be a collapsing balloon,
chins folded like dough,
sun reflects on the glasses.

Our poems today and tomorrow
come from Ian Macmillan's new
collection 'I Found This Shirt'
(Corconet, £5.95)

WIN
£10,000

THE WORLD OF
INTERIORS



THE
BIGGEST
DECORATION
ISSUE
EVER

ON SALE 17 SEPTEMBER

Florence Griffith Joyner

WHEN FLORENCE Griffith Joyner stopped the clock at 10.49 seconds during the quarter-final heats of the 100 metres at the US Olympic Trials on 16 July 1988, slicing an incredible 0.27sec off the existing world record, the sport of athletics was obliged to wipe its eyes, dust itself down and acknowledge it had just witnessed a phenomenal achievement. But the true nature of that phenomenon has been shrouded in suspicion ever since.

The margin by which she broke Evelyn Ashford's record was not only without precedent but way beyond all reasonable expectation for any athlete, let alone a 28-year-old whose previous best before that season had been 10.96sec, outside the top 40 marks of all time. For those inside the sport who, like Carl Lewis, believed Griffith Joyner's achievements were drug-enhanced, that day in Indianapolis was the day the cover was finally blown off a bottomless pit of steroids in athletics that had been festering, possibly for decades. When Ben Johnson tested positive at the Seoul Olympics a few weeks later, it seemed merely confirmation that the dreaded "fourth dimension" had well and truly arrived.

But for many others, "Flo-Jo" was the undisputed new queen of track and field. The long, painted fingernails, which forced her to use her knuckles instead of the tips of her fingers at the start of a race, the ostentatious bodysuits she designed for herself to run in and her sheer grace of movement and physical beauty made her a marketing executive's dream. She raised the profile of women's athletics in general, and turned herself into one of the best-paid sports stars of her generation. Besides which, unlike Johnson, Flo-Jo never failed a drugs test.

The seventh child of 11, Florence Griffith was born in 1959 in Watts, a tough housing projects neighbourhood of South Central Los Angeles. Her mother, a teacher, divorced her father and brought her children up to believe in independence and individuality values that never left Florence. She began running at the age of seven, joining the Sugar Ray Robinson Youth Foundation, and at 14 won her first title at the Jesse Owens National Youth Games.

She graduated as a straight-A student from Jordan High in 1978 and, after enrolling on a business studies course at California State University in Northridge, she was offered a scholarship to study psychology at UCLA and train under one of the country's leading athletics coaches, Bob Kersee.

In 1980 she made the Olympic trials for the first time, two years later she won National Collegiate titles at 200m and 400m and in the 1984 Olympics, at home in Los Angeles, she won the 200m silver medal.

Early in her time in his charge, Kersee said: "She has a burning desire to be successful, but Florence has what I would call a strange burning desire. It was hard for me to understand her, because, with her quietness and her shyness and her beauty, she doesn't really seem like she can have a killing instinct. But, when Florence sets her mind to something, she can get the job done."

After making her mark at the Olympics, Griffith stepped out of the limelight for two years, working in a bank and as a beautician before making a comeback in 1987 when she again won silver in the 200m, this time at the World Championships. She was no longer under the influence of Kersee, by now married to Jackie Joyner, who was to become one of the greatest of all Olympians. It was Joyner's older brother Al, the 1984 Olympic triple-jump champion, who was now coaching Griffith and a few weeks after the World Championships they were married.

That winter she claimed to have worked prodigiously, lifting heavy weights and running long distances, but at her first meeting the following spring, although she appeared a larger version of the previous year's model, a radical improvement in her times was not at once apparent.

Then, three weeks before the Olympic trials, she improved her personal best in the 100m to 10.89sec and in the trials first round ran a wind-assisted 10.60 before her historic record run. She won the trials final in 10.61, still the second fastest time, which has only begun to be approached this year by the 22-year-old American Marion Jones, who has won 10.65.

In the Games themselves she swept to victory by wide margins in both sprints, adding an equally astounding 200m world record of 21.34sec to the 100m record she already held; neither time has yet been bettered. A third gold medal in the sprint relay followed, and a silver in the 4x400m relay but the tongues soon started wagging. Ben Johnson's disqualification may have robbed Flo-Jo of the spotlight her achievements merited, but it also saved her from closer scrutiny by the wider public. I sat in the athletes section of the Seoul Olympic Stadium and listened as one of her closest rivals complained bitterly to her companions that Flo-Jo was taking steroids, and not long after the Games Carl Lewis said: "It was a common belief on the track circuit that Florence had used drugs."

When questioned, Griffith Joyner always denied it and said she welcomed the introduction of random testing. But her failure to take court action against Lewis, and her sudden retirement four months after the Olympics just as random testing was about to be introduced, left her fiercest critics in little doubt.

In 1990 Flo-Jo gave birth to her daughter, Mary Ruth Joyner or "MoJo" to her friends, and the last few years of her life were occupied by an apparently exhausting schedule of designing and modelling clothes, working with underprivileged children through the Florence Griffith Joyner Foundation, acting in the US soap *Santa Barbara* and NBC's *227*, writing a fitness column for a magazine, acting as spokeswoman for a variety of charitable causes and, most recently, being the chair of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

Towards the end of 1995, having finally been inducted in the prestigious athletes Hall of Fame in America, she began to talk about another comeback but in March 1996, on a flight from California to St Louis, she suffered a heart seizure.

Despite, or perhaps because of her achievements, Florence Griffith Joyner remained an enigma to the American people, never allowing her privacy to be compromised even in the face of such a demanding life style. Details of her illness were kept secret and her death on Monday, following a second seizure, came at a time when athletics administrators were considering declaring her fastest time of 10.49 null and void owing to a faulty wind-speed reading at Indianapolis.

It is sad to say of anyone, especially one who gave such aesthetic pleasure to millions and who worked so hard at everything she turned her hand to, that her death may make more sense to many than her life in athletics ever did.

ADAM SZRETER



'Flo-Jo' acknowledges her fans at the Olympic Games in Seoul, 1988. She won three gold medals

The long, painted fingernails, her sheer grace of movement, made her a marketing dream

Eva Reichmann

EVA REICHMANN was a writer in exile, a scholar, author, and outstanding "civil servant" within the German-Jewish community which had found a haven in Great Britain. The great German universities had shaped her earlier thinking, but the LSE (London School of Economics) in the end gave her the tools to write a definitive text on the causes of German anti-Semitism.

As one of the leaders of the German-Jewish community before and during the Hitler period, she found it hard to adjust to the life of a refugee in London. Slowly, with the help of her jurist husband Hans Reichmann, she came to develop and to serve many of the organisations of that German refugee community. Her thinking and organisational ability came to be recognised. Arnold Paucker, Director of the Leo Baeck Institute which she helped found, described her as "one of the greatest German Jewish women of this century".

When her death was announced, the German ambassador Gerhard von Moltke issued a special statement in which he acknowledged the work of reconciliation in which Eva Reichmann had linked together the two areas of her long life. Germany had bestowed its highest honours upon her; but it was the London Jewish community which learned, all too slowly, how much they owed to her persistent challenge to pre-conceived notions in the field of history and refugee psychology. In that community, the anguish suffered in the Holocaust had created a pattern of total rejection of Germany, and few made a distinction between Germans and Nazis.

Reichmann was a voice of reconciliation and peace, which did not deter her from making sharp judgements. Her Hampstead home could barely contain those who arrived to honour her on her 100th birthday. It was a tiring event, and she retreated to bed to receive the visitors one by one. With firm voice and clear mind, she did not hesitate to carry on arguments with scholars who had disagreed with her, and some came out shaking their heads: "What fantastic insights, even now!"

Her life encompassed almost all of this century of conflict. She was born in Lublinitz in Upper Silesia. Her parents, Adolf and Agnes Jungmann, moved to Oppeln, where Eva experienced a relaxed liberal Jewish atmosphere in her home and through the influence of their rabbi, Leo Baeck.

In 1933 German Jewry elected Baeck to lead them in the fight against the Nazi government. He was respected for his spirituality, scholarship and moral courage, but it was a hopeless battle; at best, he could gain time for some to emigrate. Eva Reichmann worked in his office with him. Baeck returned from London in August 1939, after bringing a group of children to safety. In the end, he was sent to the Concentration Camp/Ghetto Theresienstadt, where Eva's mother had been sent and where she died.

Some members of Eva's family had fled in time: a brother settled in Brazil, and her sister Elizabeth came to London where she married, as his second wife, Sir Max Beerbohm (Eva eventually inherited the rights to his work). Baeck himself survived the war; the Leo Baeck Institute was founded in 1957, as a research institute of German-Jewish history, the year after his death.

Eva Reichmann had studied economics in Breslau, Berlin, Munich and in Heidelberg, where she took her DrPhil with a thesis in 1921 on "Spontaneity and Ideology as Factors in Modern Social Movements". After some years working in industry, she became the "cultural-political" expert for the Central Verein of German Jews and edited the influential *Der Morgen* periodical. Robert Weitsch, later Director of the Leo Baeck Institute in London, edited the *Jüdische Rundschau* at that time. A friendly confrontation with him saw Reichmann still leading the fight for Jewish emancipation in the face of the emerging violence, still with hopes for Germany, while Weitsch had dis-

counted the whole scene in order to achieve Zionism's dream for Palestine. When the persecution became intense, they joined forces, first in Germany, then in London.

In Berlin, Reichmann had also worked with the Jewish Agency. Yet the hardest task there was her work with Leo Baeck at the Reichsvertretung, which had to represent all of the Jewish community against those who planned to destroy it.

In 1939, Reichmann joined one of the last groups who managed to emigrate to England. A grant from the American Jewish Committee enabled her to study at the London School of Economics where she obtained her PhD, with a dissertation on "The Social Sources of National Socialist Anti-Semitism". Published as *Hostages of Civilisation* (1950), it became a classic text.

In 1942-43 she worked for the BBC's German listening service. From 1945 to 1959 she led the research section of the Wiener Library, was a member of the Institute of Jewish Affairs, and served on the Leo Baeck Institute executive, where she contributed to its yearbooks. She belonged to the Belz Square Synagogue established by the Frankfurt rabbi George Salzerberger. There, and in the larger community, she came to be recognised as a scholar and community leader in whom the best of German Jewish life endured.

Eva Reichmann's many German and English writings showed an almost encyclopaedic knowledge of European history and of social trends, with a profound openness to human frailty and personal suffering which enabled her to enter into

dialogue with the German community. Apart from the often reprinted *Hostages of Civilisation*, her writings included the *Festschrift* for Leo Baeck (1953), *Memorial Volume* for Leo Baeck (1959) and *On the Track of Tyranny* (1960); many of her important essays from the Thirties to the Seventies were collected in the two-volume *Grösse und Verhängnis deutsch-jüdischer Existenz: Zeugnisse einer tragischen Begegnung* ("Greatness and Fate of German-Jewish Existence: testimony of a tragic encounter", 1974).

The numerous honours she received in her later years included the Moses Mendelssohn Prize presented to her by Richard von Weizsäcker; then Mayor of Berlin, who had earlier given her the Officers Cross of the German Legion of Merit in 1969. This was later followed by the major award given by Germany, the Commander's Cross of the German Legion of Merit. One of her most cherished honours was the "Buber-Rosenzweig Medal" presented to her by the German Council for Christian-Jewish co-operation.

Eva Reichmann once wrote about Leo Baeck:

"Not every time finds its great man, and not every great talent finds its time." Leo Baeck found his time, and German Jewry in its life and in its death celebrates its great man in him... In his dignity and wisdom radiated a radiance which could even illuminate this most unhappy episode in Jewish history.

Much of this applied to Eva Reichmann, a wise woman of her time.

ALBERT FRIEDLANDER

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Clara Calamai

WHEN AMEDEO Nazzari ripped open Clara Calamai's blouse in the 1941 costume drama *La Cena delle Beffe*, the moralistic cinema-goers of Fascist Italy held their collective breaths in shock: in 18 frames which were to guarantee Calamai a place in film history, naked breasts were seen on an Italian movie screen for the first time.

Like a true screen goddess, when Calamai died she left the world guessing about her age: some film guides put it at 83, others at 89. She had spent more than 20 years in a life of retirement, refusing to perform after her appearance as an aged, murderous actress in the 1975 horror film *Profondo Rosso*, and shunning the press.

Calamai's acting career began in 1936 when, favoured by the Fascist authorities who ensured that cinema promoted the party line, she took role after role in the lightweight comedies and heroic costume dramas which were the stock-in-trade of the regime's official film-makers. Small wonder then that the ex-

posed breasts of this perfectly line-toeing actress caused a scandal.

The scene, recalls the cinema historian and critic Tullio Kezich, soon disappeared from most of the copies available on the commercial circuit: not because of the wrath of the censors, but because excited projector operators took their scissors to this bit of cinema memorabilia.

Calamai's unexpected kicking-over of traces may have been what persuaded Luchino Visconti to call her up for an interview when Anna Magnani, his first candidate to play the brusque innkeeper in *L'ossessione* (1941), announced that pregnancy would keep her out of the film.

For a work which was to change the course of film-making, giving birth to neo-realism, Clara Calamai was a strange choice. It was one that paid off, however: all the dramatic capability previously submerged under saccharine performances of insignificant scripts - the whimpering courtesan of *La Cena delle Beffe* - was memorable only for those 18 frames - came to the fore in a mas-

terful performance as a woman who seeks to escape the boredom of her provincial life by taking a lover and persuading him to kill her husband.

Visconti - on whom Calamai had a well-publicised but unrequited crush - directed her again opposite Marcello Mastroianni in *Le Notte Bianche* in 1957. Around these two high-points, Calamai made 45 other movies, many of them tributes to her unfortunate gift for selecting terrible screenplays.

In part, Calamai told the daily *La Repubblica* in a rare interview three years ago, this was due to bad luck. "Rossellini had offered me the leading role in *Roma, Città Aperta*, but unfortunately I had to turn it down," she recalled. "Anna Magnani got her own back then, and took the part that was meant for me."

ANNE HANLEY

Clara Calamai, actress: born Prato, Italy 7 September 1908 (or 1915); married Leonardo Bonzi (deceased); died Rimini, Italy 31 September 1998.



Calamai in *La Cena delle Beffe*, 1941

Billy Sutcliffe



Belief in Yorkshire cricket

BILLY SUTCLIFFE was a right-hand batsman of considerable hitting power who captained Yorkshire for two years in 1956-57 and whose misfortune it was to carry the excess weight and expectation conferred by an internationally famous name. It also fell to him to take over the leadership at a turning-point in the history of what had been the most successful county cricket club.

Herbert Sutcliffe had, with Jack Hobbs, formed the most renowned opening partnership in the game and Billy, born, like Len Hutton, in Pudsey, was named and groomed to succeed. Herbert, an ultra-professional, carried himself like an amateur and was offered the Yorkshire captain-

cy in 1928, shrewdly declining, probably sensing that the time of the professional captain had not yet arrived.

Billy however was raised as an amateur, schooled at Rydal but brought up in the demanding cricket of the Yorkshire leagues. He first appeared for Yorkshire in 1948 and for some years it was expected that either he or Geoffrey Keighley would succeed Norman Yardley, all amateurs, in the captaincy.

Keighley left to farm in Australia so Sutcliffe, as the leading amateur, seemed the obvious candidate although we now know that Hutton, soon to be knighted after serving as a professional captain of England, would have liked to have been asked.

Billy Sutcliffe, it was said afterwards, was too close and too popular in the dressing room to deal with a team of strong, bellicose characters that included Trueman, Wardle, Appleyard, Close and Illingworth. Yardley, Hutton and other moderating influences such as Willie Watson and Ted Lester had either gone or were going. Yorkshire needed a Lord Hawke or a Brian Sellers to control and motivate such a fractious bunch.

There were outside pressures, too, for Surrey won a fifth successive championship in 1956, a feat difficult to swallow in the Ridings. Sutcliffe could have claimed, literally, "it never rains but it pours" for, in addition to a sad crop of injuries, 11

full days were lost to the weather. He soldiered on through another summer, saw Yorkshire restored to contention, in third place, and then wisely took himself off to business in the family sportswear company.

Brian Close summed him up as "a super lad who made himself into a county cricketer because it was expected of him and because he believed in Yorkshire cricket and its right to pre-eminence. He was happier having a pint and a natter than he was in cracking the whip on the field."

Don Wilson, later to bowl for England and coach MCC, said of Sutcliffe: "It was unfair to suggest he was only in the job because of his name. He was a great league play-

er and had proved himself a knowledgeable captain for Leeds. It was the senior players who were at the root of this malodorous."

Like preceding captains, Billy Sutcliffe was expected to serve on the committee, which he did faithfully, little knowing that the 21-year-old he welcomed, when captain of the Leeds club in 1961, would bring him later grief. As Geoffrey Boycott's fame and records grew Sutcliffe was part of the committee that tried to maintain that the Club and the Team were greater than the Man, a battle he lost when he was swept from office by Boycott's supporters in 1984.

Like Fred Trueman, Sutcliffe never sought office again, accepting

a vice-presidency and serving the cause quietly. He had a considerable knowledge of Yorkshire's history and personalities and was always excellent company. He scored six centuries for Yorkshire, his best year being 1955, when he averaged 33, reached 7,530 career runs at an average of 26 and toured India with the Commonwealth side in 1950-51 and Pakistan with MCC in 1956-57. He last played, for MCC, in 1959.

DEREK HODGSON

William Herbert Hobbs Sutcliffe, cricketer: born Pudsey, West Yorkshire 10 October 1926; married (two daughters); died Collingham, West Yorkshire 16 September 1998.



Demonstrators in Tirana last week following the shooting of the Albanian opposition leader Azem Hajdari

Mario Laporta

Azem Hajdari

IN THE volatile and, at times, dangerous world of Albanian politics, there were few, if any, figures with so many personal and political enemies as Azem Hajdari, the 35-year-old opposition politician and former student leader, who died after being gunned down, along with a bodyguard, outside the offices of his Democratic Party (DP) in central Tirana.

The killing of Hajdari, who had played a leading part in the pro-democracy movement against the Communist regime in 1990, came as the culmination of several violent incidents involving him, including attempts on his life. The most spectacular of these had occurred almost exactly a year earlier when he was badly injured in a shooting incident inside the Albanian parliament. His assassination put an end to an eight-year political career which was as dramatic at its beginning as it was at its end.

Hajdari came from a poor family in Albania's mountainous northern region of Tropoja, known for its traditions of bravery, violence and the blood feud, or *hokmarrje*, as well as for its poverty and reliance on cross-border smuggling into Kosovo. He was nearing the end of a philosophy course, which in those days meant Marxism-Leninism, at Tirana University, when the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe began to shake Albania, Europe's last Stalinist bastion.

The disintegration of the Communist regime began in the summer of 1990 when thousands of desperate Albanians scaled the walls of Tirana's foreign embassies in an ultimately successful attempt to leave the country. But the pressure for change continued to build up and in December students took the initiative by staging protests against their worsening living conditions in the halls of residence.

Almost immediately the students' agenda turned political with demands for political freedom. Bold, uncompromising and with a populist appeal, Hajdari emerged as the natural leader of the students' movement. Within days he became one of the founders of the DP, the first non-Communist party in Albania following the Second World War, and was elected its first chairman.

But Hajdari's stint at the top of the DP proved short-lived. Two months later he was replaced as party chairman by Sali Berisha, the cardiologist who had been sent by President Ramiz Alia, Albania's last Stalinist leader, to negotiate with the students. Thereafter, Hajdari's ambivalent, and periodically uneasy, relationship with Berisha, another native of the Tropoja region, determined much of his political career.

It took another year before the DP won the parliamentary elections and Berisha emerged as President in April 1992. Hajdari received no government job. Instead, he had to settle for the post of chairman of the parliamentary commission on public order and the National Intelligence Service (SHIK) - the newly reconstituted secret police.

In the meantime, Hajdari's influence was rapidly diminishing. Within months of the DP's taking power, Hajdari was in trouble for making critical remarks about the new government in a television interview which was never shown. Hajdari then left for a few months on a scholarship to the United States in a move that appeared designed to get him out of the way.

Hajdari remained a maverick who could never be silenced. In 1993 he was found guilty of assaulting a fellow DP official, though he was let off with a warning. On one occasion he threatened to shoot himself unless police stopped

evicting a group of ex-political prisoners of the Communist era from a building where they were staging a hunger strike in support of obtaining better provisions from the state.

For a while Hajdari was tempted to join the Democratic Alliance, the party that had broken away from the DP or even to set up a new organisation along with other disillusioned members of the students' movement. But the prospects elsewhere seemed bleak so he stayed within the DP, the party that remained firmly in power until the collapse of fraudulent pyramid investment schemes at the beginning of 1997.

Regional and personal loyalties, the cement of Albanian politics, kept him within Berisha's orbit even when they were otherwise at odds. One such occasion was Hajdari's unsuccessful attempt in 1996 to take over Albania's main trade union federation, a bid that had been prompted by his frustration with his lack of influence within the DP.

The years of estrangement with Berisha came to an end with the DP's disastrous defeat in the 1997 elections which followed an uprising against the Berisha regime after the pyramid schemes had crashed. Many of Berisha's top officials left politics or failed to get re-elected to parliament. Hajdari, on the other hand, had not been in government and was not held responsible for the disasters of the previous year. He had also retained some of his popularity from the time of the student demonstrations.

Hajdari now emerged as a close associate of Berisha in opposition. But his combative nature had not changed. In September 1997 he got involved in a fight with Gafur Mazreku, an MP of the Prime Minister Fatos Nano's governing Socialist Party, in a dispute over a rise in the rate of value added tax. Two days

later Hajdari was seriously injured when Mazreku shot him in parliament several times.

Although the opposition portrayed the shooting as part of a political campaign against the DP, it had every appearance of a revenge attack and Mazreku was sentenced to 11 years' jail. Within six months Hajdari was again in trouble over bullying. Following an incident in which his bodyguards forced the police chief of the northern town of Shkoder to vacate the VIP box in the local football stadium, police blocked the road to stop his group's fleet of cars returning to Tirana. After a stand-off lasting several hours Hajdari's companions were disarmed.

Hajdari's confrontational attitude made him into something of a battering ram against the Nano government which has been struggling with only limited success, to restore law and order following last year's uprising.

His death - in a hail of bullets - bore all the hallmarks of a professional killing which the DP has blamed on the government. But, with all the enemies he made in his personal, business as well as political life over the years, it may never become clear for what reason Hajdari was killed.

Hajdari, who leaves a widow, Jeta, and two children, was a larger-than-life character who had led a dangerous existence. For much of the time luck remained on his side; but it finally ran out amidst the kind of violence that has become a recurrent characteristic of post-Communist Albania.

GABRIEL PARTOS

Azem Hajdari, student leader and politician: born Bajram Curri, Albania 11 March 1963; married (one son, one daughter); died Tirana 12 September 1998.

HISTORICAL NOTES

STANLEY WEINTRAUB

Albert's memorial not for who he was

AS THE Queen reopens the restored Albert Memorial today we may wonder what the Prince Consort, her great-great-grandfather, would have thought of it.

Expected to endure, the monument suffered unanticipated obsolescence. The Victorian gingerbread metalwork rusted; the gilding was destroyed during the Great War in a botched attempt to dull the glint from intruding Zeppelins; and "friendly fire" in the next war from anti-aircraft guns in Hyde Park popped the orb at the top, which was badly replaced in peacetime.

During the brief Derby ministry in the later 1850s, Albert had proposed that an architect he admired, George Gilbert Scott, design the projected new Foreign Office. Scott returned with plans in the neo-Gothic style then dominant, but Palmerston returned to Downing Street and turned Scott's conception down in favour of Regency neoclassicism.

With the Prince's support, Scott took his rejected drawings to the directors of the Midland Railway, friends of Albert's since their collaboration on the Great Exhibition of 1851. The building materialised as St Pancras Railway Station, now considered one of the glories of mid-Victorian architecture. Victoria would choose Scott to design and oversee the memorial to her husband. One assumes that his shade would have approved.

Centrepiece of the structure is John Foley's monumental seated statue of Albert in his Garter robes. In 1853, tales surfaced that Albert's admirers were lobbying for a statue of the Prince in Hyde Park on the former site of the Crystal Palace, which had been dismantled and moved across the Thames to Sydenham. Rumour had it that statues of George III and George IV, and the pillar memorialising the little-lamented Duke of York, like George IV an uncle to both Victoria and Albert, would be melted down for their bronze. *Punch* published a satirical cartoon.

Embarrassed, the Prince denied aspirations to be a statue in Hyde Park or any other public place, writing to Lord Granville on 3 November 1853 that he could say, "with perfect absence of humbug", that it would disturb his rides in the park "to see my own face staring at me", and, if it was "an artistic monstrosity, like most of our monuments", it would



The Albert Memorial, built in 1863-72

upset him "to be permanently ridiculed and laughed at in effigy".

He had privately downplayed his royal role, preferring to subsume himself in the Queen's service and taking on only those responsibilities which did not interfere with being, in effect, her executive assistant. Albert turned down Wellington's quite serious offer that he become the Duke's successor as commander-in-chief of the Army, yet he entered and won a contested election for Chancellor of Cambridge in order to reform the medieval curriculum and help thrust a reluctant university into the 19th century. So, too, when little more than 30, he took on the Great Exhibition, turning it into the first World's Fair and focusing it upon science and industry so successfully that it turned a profit and provided the impetus - and substantial funding - for the great complex of museums, colleges, institutes and concert halls in South Kensington first derided by sceptics as "Albertopolis".

Under the ornate friezed canopy, the Prince, in gilded bronze, holds one of the volumes of the exhibition catalogue in his right hand, his forefinger tucked between its pages to suggest that he was serious about it. He had, in life, even checked to see that each object displayed was correctly labelled.

Despite his deploring monuments to himself, Albert would have been pleased to be memorialised for what he did rather than who he was.

Stanley Weintraub is the author of *Albert, Uncrowned King* (John Murray, £15.99)

Steel worms for all who love the juice

THE INDEPENDENT ARCHIVE

23 SEPTEMBER 1989

John Windsor reports on the bibulousness and high jinks of international corkscrew week

IT IS international corkscrew week. Not that the honourable International Correspondence of Corkscrew Addicts would be coarse enough to publicise it, or even give it a name: the most eminent of the world's three corkscrew collecting societies has a waiting list of a dozen for the single vacancy in its limited membership of 50, and the threat of enforced expansion is on every Addict's mind.

Corking of wine bottles started in the mid-17th century and the first reference to a corkscrew - a "steel Worme" - has been traced to London in 1681. Members' collections of 1,000-2,000 corkscrews are not uncommon. Specimens of the earliest patented corkscrew of 1795, invented by the Rev Samuel Henshall and manufactured by the great engineer Matthew Boulton, change hands for £1,000-£2,000. A gold corkscrew fetched a record £4,730 at Sotheby's a year ago. But 18th- and 19th-century specimens, with finely turned wood handles and steel worms, can still be picked up for £10-£20.

More than 300 corkscrew patents have been issued in Britain. "King-screw" rack-and-pinion mechanisms developed after about 1800. William Maud's patent of 1894 has pins that rotate the cork - worth up to £200.

For international corkscrew week, Christie's and Sotheby's are holding private views prior to corkscrew auctions for an estimated 35 international Addicts. The Victoria & Albert Museum has planned an Addicts' reception at its current corkscrew exhibition, where 150 examples are on show. The Reform Club and the Coram Foundation

are receiving them, and Brighton Pavilion is lending its banquet room. There will be dinners in members' homes. It will be a time for bibulous but elegant high jinks.

Corkscrews may be humble implements, but their collectors are a cut or two above the bicycle-clip brigade. The ICCA was founded in 1974 by Dr Bernard Watney, author of *Corkscrews for Collectors* - the collectors' "bible". The corkscrew group's endearing combination of sound scholarship and quaint customs would disgrace neither an Oxbridge dining club nor an arcane ancient order. Members - half Americans, and the rest mainly Europeans - include physicians, estate agents, lawyers, accountants, company directors, engineers and a retired hospital porter turned game-beater to the nobility.

There is no president. Instead, there is a Right. It was the American senator Henry Clay who in 1850, you will recall, said: "Sir, I would rather be right than be President."

Tomorrow night at the Addicts' annual dinner, the current Right, Richard Dennis, a Kens-

ington antique dealer, will offer the toasts inscribed on a specially commissioned ceramic punchbowl, inspired by those of 18th-century dining clubs: "The bottlescrew, whose worth, whose use, all men confess that love the juice" (anon English poem, 1732) and *In spira spero* (anon, 1974).

By tradition, no Addict is allowed to leave the table until the bowl is empty. Six litres may not sound a lot: the catch is that the Master of the Punch is allowed to fill the bowl with his own recipe as many times as he likes.

For the over-indulged, the Addicts' chaplain will be at hand. Brother Timothy Diener, a founder member, is a retired cellar-master of the Christian Brothers of Napa Valley, California. His florid pre-dinner graces giving thanks for God's gift of the grape and yeast are designed to test the patience of the most recalcitrant taste-buds. His pastoral obligations are made more poignant by the fact that he is the donor of the wine for the Christie's and Sotheby's receptions.

The finale is a dinner at the Right's house in Shepton Beauchamp, Somerset, and a return coach trip via Stonehenge. The last time this was attempted, according to ICCA records, few Addicts clapped eyes on the stones, being by that time "in a soporific trance".

The entire junket, including forays to antique markets and an AGM at the Reform Club, costs a mere £120, not counting hotel accommodation. No wonder supplicants are keenly vetted.

From the Weekend section of *The Independent*, Saturday 23 September 1989

GAZETTE

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Gloucester takes the salute at a Freedom Parade for Royal Air Force Locking, Weston-super-Mare, and afterwards takes the salute at a Sunset Ceremony marking the closure of RAF Locking.

Princess Alexandra visits the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, Renfrewshire, to mark the 50th anniversary of the National Health Service; and opens the new Community Mental Health Resource Centre, Paisley.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Toby Balding, racehorse trainer, 62; Mr Ray Charles, rhythm and blues singer, 68; Baroness David, former government whip, 85; Lord Feldman, chairman, Better Business Opportunities, 72; Mr James Guinness, former deputy chairman, Guinness Peat, 74; Mr Julio Iglesias, musician, 55; Mr Richard Lambert, Editor, *Financial Times*, 54; Dr Brian Lloyd, nutritionist, 78; Mrs Genista McIntosh, executive director, Royal National Theatre, 52; The Right Rev Michael Manktelow, former Bishop of Basingstoke, 71; Mr Larry Mize, golfer, 40; Mr Mickey Rooney, actor, 78; Mr Bruce Springsteen, singer and songwriter, 49; Sir Roger Toulson, High Court judge, 52; Admiral Sir John Treacher, 74; Mr John Wilkinson MP, 58.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: William Archer, dramatic critic and playwright, 1856; Mary Elizabeth

Coleridge, novelist and poet, 1861; Emma Magdalena Rosalia Marie Josepha Barbara, Baroness Orczy, novelist, 1865; Walter Lippman, journalist and writer, 1889; Paul Delvaux, painter, 1897.

Deaths: Nicholas-François Mansart, architect, 1666; Robert Dodsley, poet, publisher and bookseller, founder of the *Annual Register*, 1764; Richard Parkes Bonington, landscape painter, 1828; John Vanderlyn, painter, 1852; Prosper Merimee, novelist, 1870; Urbain Jean-Joseph Leverrier, astronomer, 1877; Thomas Webster, figure painter, 1886; William Wilkie Collins, novelist, 1889; Eliza Cook, poet, 1889; Ivar Andreas Aasen, philosopher, 1896; Julius Adam, painter, 1913; John Morley, first Viscount Morley, statesman, 1923; Sigmund Freud, psychoanalyst, 1939; Elinor Glyn, novelist, 1943; Pablo Neruda (Nefali Ricardo Reyes), Chilean poet, 1973.

On this day: the Greeks defeated the Persians at the

Battle of Salamis, 480 BC; the Lancastrians were defeated by the Yorkists at Bloreheath, 1459; the Battle of Worcester was won by Prince Rupert, 1642; Montrose was defeated by David Leslie at the Battle of Philiphaugh, 1645; the British under Wellesley defeated Scindia and the Rajah of Berar at Assaye, 1803; Johann Gottfried Galle discovered the planet Neptune, 1846; two awards for gallantry, the George Cross and the George Medal, were instituted, 1940; General Juan Peron was re-elected as president of Argentina, 1973.

Today is the Feast Day of St Adamnan or Euman of Iona and Saints Andrew, John, Peter and Antony.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Gabriele Faldini, "Canaleto (iv): Venice through Canaleto's eyes", 1pm; Jonathan Miller, "Mirror Image", 6.30pm. Victoria and Albert

Museum: Deidre Robson, "American Design in the 1930s", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Bernard Smith, "Modernism's History", 6.30pm. British Museum: Sam Moorhead, "The British, Vain and Philosophical: emperors of Rome", 11.30am. The Wallace Collection, London W1: Patricia Falkner, "Dutch Paintings in the Wallace Collection", 1pm. Royal Academy of Arts: Marilyn McCully, "Picasso: painter and sculptor in clay", 1pm.

DINNERS

Distillers' Company: The Lord Mayor of London, Sir Richard Nichols, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, attended a Livery and Ladies' Banquet of the Distillers' Company held yesterday evening at the Mansion House, London EC4. Mr Christopher R. Mitchell, Master, presided. The Lord Mayor, the Bishop of London and Mr Gerald Milsom also spoke.

THE BEATLES' manager Brian Epstein - "an intuitive, theatrical guy", said John Lennon - recalled the famous, unsuccessful audition at Decca one New Year's Day. They paid 27/- for the hotel for the night. "They were poor and I wasn't rich" but none the less they all celebrated with rum and Scotch and

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

callibogus, n.

Coke, "which was becoming a Beadle drink even then". Precise as Epstein's voice was, he does not make it clear whether this was

some deadly threefold cocktail or two separate drinks. Whatever, some of us continue to prefer callibogus. Unknown over here, it is a word for a combination which makes something palatable from those otherwise grim ingredients, rum and American beer. Had they done so, they might not have bothered with pot and LSD.

You ask the questions

(Such as: Bob Geldof, how do you rate Jane, Sarah or Mary as names for girls?)

Bob Geldof, 45, was born in Dublin. Early success as lead singer of Boomtown Rats was eclipsed somewhat by his achievements with Live Aid. Geldof is currently deejaying for XFM - his show is produced by Planet 24, his own media production company. Married to Paula Yates for ten years, he now lives in London with his girlfriend, French actress Jeanne Marais.

When you walk past homeless people, do you give them money? *Tom Reynolds, Hastings.* Sometimes. I find a kind but firm talking to with a spirited, upbeat message serves them better in the long run. And d'ja know something? They usually really appreciate it too.

Have you, like Dana, any ambition to become president of the Irish Republic? *Tommy McLean, St Helens. No.*

Do you believe in God? *Emily Whitney, Stockport.* Unfortunately, no.

You have opinions on most things - do you read contemporary fiction and poetry and, if so, who do you rate? *Tobias L. Young, Bristol, London.* Not much fiction - history, biographies mostly. A lot of poetry - inevitably Larkin, Yeats and the brilliant new Robin Robertson.

Are there any plans to release 'definitive' editions of the Boomtown Rats' albums (digital remastering, B-sides and out-takes added on etc)? Similarly an album of a 'Rats Live' show - your shows 'really cooked'? *John Fyfe, Ramelagh, Dublin.* The BBC is planning a Rats session soon. I don't know where any actual live gig tapes are. I'm not sure we recorded many.

If your accountant ran off with six million would you, like Sting, not notice? *Ann Reeves, Aberdeen.* Like Sting I'd probably be embarking on my fifth hour of tantric shagging and frankly not have time to notice.

What's your biggest regret in life? *Ross Woodward, Finchley.* My hair.

Is it difficult maintaining the design of your facial hair? What would it take to get you to Nicky Clarke? *Tamsin, Helen and Jo, Sheffield.* All the face stuff has gone now. But it was easy. Occasionally shave -



leave a bit in the middle. Nicky has always done my hair. Wouldn't let anyone else touch it, darling.

What is the worst insult you have received? What is the best riposte you have given? *John McMahon, Watford.* "But it's so... tiny!" "Er... sorry."

When did you last wash your hair? *Tina Fenton, Swindon.* 1836

Were you bribed in any way to spout all that unbelievable tosh about Michael Jackson at the Brit

Awards. If so, by whom? *Jenny Phipps, Hayes, Middlesex.* Yes. An autocrat. Michael is, of course, a close personal friend, a towering genius and a genuinely warm and wonderful human being.

What album do you play the most? *Tania Belfour, Chalfont St Giles.* At the moment, Eels - *Electroshock Blues*, but consistently, Van Morrison.

How do you think you compare to the Chris Evans school of radio deejaying? Did he offer you any advice? *Pete Grice, Southampton.* Taught him everything he knows.

How do you rate Jane, Mary or Sarah as girls' names? *Kath Wright, Oxford.* As highly as Kevin, Trev and Brian.

What's your favourite punk rock single? *Jon Gmell, Hants.* There's no point in asking - you'll get no reply.

It's now 21 years since the first Boomtown Rats album - any inclination for a nostalgic tour? *Steve Murray, N Ireland.* Absolutely not.

Where did you eat last night and

who were you with? *Shane Jackson, Sussex.* At home. With the kids.

a) What happened to XFM, once London's only alternative, now one of London's many mainstream music stations? *Rachel George, Daniel George, David Graham, South London.* a) It's got better. b) Don't be stupid.

Like many Londoners, I'd like to ask you your views on the recent XFM debacle. *G Mallett, Sunderland, Surrey.* Here's 2p towards your new anorak.

What are your top three records at the moment? *Kevin Baker, Stroud.* Placebo's "Pure Morning"; Nick Cave's "The Ship Song"; "James" by Buffalo.

What was the exact location of 'The House At The Top Of The World'? *Simon Fisk, Somerset.* The end of a small lane on a hill above Laughinstown, outside Dublin.

If you had to form a 'supergroup' for one evening, with yourself on vocals, who would you choose to play drums, bass and lead guitar? *Don Carson, Edinburgh.* Drums - Niall Power; Bass - Pete Briquette; Guitar - John Turnbull.

Describe one of your happiest memories. *Sinead McEwen, Queens Park, London.* I woke up. I couldn't think of one awful thing. Then I began remembering.

YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS

NEXT: MELVYN BRAGG FOLLOWED BY BJÖRK

Please send any questions you would like to put to broadcaster and author Melvyn Bragg and singer Björk to: You Ask The Questions, Features Dept, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5DL; by fax on 0171-293 2182; or e-mail them to: yourquestions@independent.co.uk by lunch time on Friday, 25 September



IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

16: TAMPON ADS
BY SERENA MACKESY

THERE IS a phrase that, if I'm in the throes of PMS, makes me want to throw the nearest Yuppie coffee-table ornament through the TV screen. All you have to do to bring me out in a cold sweat is raise an arched eyebrow, put on a Scottish accent and say "You don't suppose using dry white wine was a bit of a cheat, do you?" Immaculate enough, I know, but when the actress delivering the line has just poured the contents of her glass into a sanitary towel, it's downright offensive. Look, dolly: wings are useful if you knock your wine glass over on your white sofa and don't have any kitchen paper; but that's not actually what they were designed for.

The advertising of menstrual products - and I say this as a ranting liberal - is one of the most disastrous spin-offs of the liberalisation of our airwaves. The problem is

offensive to all, and particularly to the group they're advertising to. Vacant actresses going: "Well, my friend suggested I try wings, and they were brilliant. And then I found out that everyone else was using them already." Clear-complexioned women leaping into the backs of open-topped cars (driven, of course, by men). Or that fantastically long, fantastically boring waste of your and my life in which Lil-lets show that their wavy blue water is very, very discreet.

Tampon advertising has produced a set of clichés - women on roller-skates, fluffy clouds, in white dresses, women running, riding, laughing with their arms round each other - as instantly recognisable and as instantly ineffective as anything the larger industry has thought up. I say ineffective because, when I did a straw poll to see if anyone could name the



product that is Most Effective Against Leaks ("Eeeugh," said the boys, "there's no need to get so detailed"), the one that lets you go to Venice (but not every day), or the one you use to mop up your dry white wine with, not one person got it right. Woah! Bodyform is the only universally recognised slogan, and that only because it's become the universal butt of jokes.

I don't want my periods represented as an opportunity for liberation when they're actually an opportunity for some multinational to make a thousand per cent markup on cotton wool. If they're going to advertise, at least let's be truthful about what they're for. What kind of society do we live in that bombards us (and in the daytime, too) with Jerry Springer's images of trailer-park peccadillos but can't bring itself to mention menstruation? Please, someone, give that woman a bottle of red. If it scares the boys, they'll get over it in time.

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THE INDEPENDENT

If you love them, let go

Two sisters have been abducted by their foster parents, who couldn't bear to give them up. Is too much love a bad thing for children in temporary care? By Kate Mikhail

THE THREE-year-old girl stood in the middle of the shop and let out a stream of obscenities. All eyes turned on the mother in disgust. How dare she bring up her child like that?

Sharon Penzer, who found herself on the receiving end of the unmistakably hostile glares, said: "It is assumed that these are your children and you should deal with it. There is no understanding of what the child's been through."

Sharon, 35, and her husband Steven, 42, who live in Birmingham, have fostered 50 children in the past five years but stopped taking in babies when they found themselves and their own daughter becoming too attached to them.

"We had one child who was only six weeks old when she arrived and it was like a bereavement when she left," says Sharon. "I still get quite choked about her and it's been a few years."

The agony of having to part with children that you have taken into your home was highlighted last week when a foster couple ran off with the two little girls in their care. It seems Jeffrey and Jennifer Bramley were worried that their application to adopt the children was about to be turned down.

The children's natural mother immediately issued an emotional plea for their return, stressing that she had not given up the children because she didn't love them, but quite the opposite. "I did it because I loved them and I wanted them to have a nice family to live with," she said.

"Abduction is extremely rare," according to a spokesman for the National Foster Care Association. "A lot of trouble is taken to stress to carers that there are problems with forming attachments to children, but essentially your job is to work to support the child at a very vul-



Sharon and Steven Penzer with their own daughter

nerable time in their life and try to ensure as far as possible that they retain a strong bond with their family in the hope that they can go back to them."

Colin Green, Assistant Director of Children's Services at Cambridgeshire County Council, where the Bramleys lived before their disappearance, acknowledges that fostering is hard on both the foster carers, who suffer "pain and heartache" when the children leave, and the natural parents who often feel jealous at the sight of someone else looking after their children.

Sharon and Steven Penzer now take in three- to ten-year-olds, a situation they find slightly easier to cope with as the children recognise that they are not their parents. "A lot of the children we have

have been severely abused and they do talk about it, usually at the breakfast table. They say: 'I've been locked in cupboards', 'I've been forced'. They need to talk about it because for them it's the norm and they want to see your reaction, to see how you feel."

Sharon Penzer, who has completed the National Vocational Qualification in foster care, is very aware of the need to create a stable environment for the children she takes in. "By living with you, they see it's normal to have food on the table and to play with toys, it's just creating something they're not used to."

An alarming number of the children who have stayed with the Penzers have not known how to use a toothbrush or even the toilet, and these are children as old as eight.

As for Lauren, their eight-year-old daughter, feelings of jealousy are inevitable, and at the sight of all these other children coming and going she often asks "when do I move on?" Sharon says she is often tempted to adopt. But she says: "We're fostering to help children move on and to help them make a better life. As long as I keep hearing that in mind I'll carry on and not adopt."

Of the 60,000 children in care in the UK, two thirds are placed with foster families which have increasingly come to replace children's homes, the subject of so much criticism in recent years. Foster carers are thoroughly vetted, police-checked and given extensive training to prepare them for what lies ahead.

Ernie Flynn and his ex-wife Pru used to provide short-term emergency foster care in London but stopped due to a disagreement with the local authority. The couple had five children of their own but when their youngest reached 14 they decided to start taking

in others on a foster basis. "We first started off with 14-15 year-olds," says Ernie, 59, "but they are very difficult when they're that age, they've got their rights and they say 'I want to smoke, I'll smoke when I want'."

The family then took in seven and eight-year-olds who had been "sexually abused or burnt with cigarettes, hit with hammers and all sorts of things". After that they took in pre-adoption children, including babies that had been abandoned. Ernie remembers the "emptiness" he felt with each child's departure, but he still sees those he built up a particularly close bond with.

Foster carers often keep in touch with children who have passed through their homes, although sometimes they have to force themselves to let go.

"You have to be careful not to be extra baggage for them to carry around," says Deborah Gibbs, 38, who has been fostering children for the past 14 years in Guildford. "If you're huggable, you're useful and there are things about you they can make use of. But when you're extra baggage around their necks forget it, they don't need it."

All carers have their own way of dealing with the trauma of children moving on and Deborah Gibbs, who has three teenage children of her own, copes by throwing a party for them.

"What's really important when your children move on is that you have a proper good-bye and you finish it, you close that chapter and move on."

"We usually have an event that marks it, with a cake and a pressie and photographs, and say 'This is what it was all about. This is why you were here.' It gives them something good to take away and I think it's as important for the fostering family as it is for the child."

Move over, Calvin

Thanks to Helmut Lang, some of New York's leading designers have already shown next summer's trends on the catwalk. Or have they? By Melanie Rickey

Nobody is embracing the new long skirts and flat shoes look in New York City. It's far too sultry and smoggy. Instead, the world's most powerful fashion editors (with the exception of eccentric doyenne Polly Mellen of *Albion*, whose Marc Jacobs shoes are so dainty and flat they appear to be drawn on to her feet) are still wearing their summer clothes and sandals and talking about their holidays. It is unprecedented. No, not the weather and the clothes, but the fact that this is New York, in September, and the fashion editors are gathered for fashion shows, although one would be mistaken for thinking it was an up-market cocktail party. "I was in Morocco, kiss, kiss, you?" "How was Fire Island?" "You look so well darling" etc.

Traditionally, New York Fashion Week takes place in November after the hectic London, Milan and Paris shows. And take place it will, but without two of its skinniest stars: Calvin Klein and Donna Karan. It is all because Helmut Lang, the reclusive Austrian urban minimalist who decamped to New York last year (allegedly for love), decided that he wanted to show his collection before everyone else at the risk of upsetting the applecart - and he did. In the process he caused a fashion revolution. Not only did he create a new role for himself as one of the most influential designers in the world both fashion- and business-wise, but Calvin and Donna followed hot on his heels. They ended up staging a mini fashion week which worked so well that next season New York will kick off the international collections, instead of being last.

Calvin Klein's representative Robert Treffis says: "It is purely business. It just doesn't make sense to show the collection in November when we've already sold it in Milan. Helmut Lang did the right thing." Those who know better say Lang did not want to show after his former Parisian contemporaries (he showed for eight years in Paris) in case he was seen to be copying them, a charge often levelled at the Americans. But Lang has always, and will continue to bang his own drum, and having his show early simply means he will have longer to sell it and produce the collection.

London's own Alexander McQueen, in New York last week to be honoured at the 15th annual "Night of Stars" as one of fashion's "individualists" alongside Miuccia Prada, told industry bible *Women's Wear Daily*: "The proof is in the pudding, to see what they can come up with before Milan and Paris." That's what everyone else is saying, but there was no denying that the clothes shown last week were very desirable, and will sell and sell. This is something that makes Americans very happy - Kate Betts, fashion news director of the mighty *American Vogue* more so than most. "People will look at New York fashion in the fresh way it deserves now, not as a way to fill in the blanks after a long and tiring season of shows."

Indeed New York is a powerful, slick and commercial animal; the clothes shown on catwalks and worn on the street are wearable, uncomplicated, and very, very smart. In New York fashion boutiques, it is common for a well-groomed woman (they are always well groomed), when confronted with a drawstring or a drape, to ask: "How do I wear this?" Really. But they are learning, and will learn more as their native designers and Helmut Lang get to grips with their wardrobes, and slowly add edgy European details to the commercial pieces: an oddly placed zipper to accentuate the hip drape on a jersey dress (Calvin Klein), an ornately tucked and draped light-as-a-cloud blue tulle and organza shift dress (Donna Karan), or a hot-pink ruched organdie vest-dress, layered over a white vest-dress printed with a subtle, urban camouflage (Helmut Lang).

These are summer collections, after all, and what better way to feel summery than to explode colour on to the catwalk, which undoubtedly was the biggest trend "message" last week in New York. Full-blown orange, grass green, aquamarine, yellow, aubergine and raspberry at Calvin Klein were flung together on sheer jersey tops, knee-skirts, long fluid crêpe de Chine, and split jersey dresses with elongated armholes, some worn on top of each other to get the maximum colour effect. Donna Karan took the same approach for DKNY a few days earlier, offering bubblegum-bright double-layered skirts, simple slash neck T-shirts, and her new range of underwear. For her womanly main line, however, she took the subtle approach with a beautiful collection that was called rather cornily "The Lightness of Being". When the last hurrahs died down the title did have some relevance. The clothes were as light as air and in the most part the silhouette was somewhat reminiscent of Yohji Yamamoto's early Eighties offerings: low-slung, elasticated-waist, puffy washed taffeta skirts and cotton dirndls were worn with off-shoulder fine cotton jumpers over white vests; too-long cashmere T-shirts were hiked up around the hips, and trousers



Calvin Klein



Calvin Klein



Helmut Lang: access this show at www.helmutlang.com

Photographs: Chris Moore



Helmut Lang



Donna Karan



Donna Karan

were cropped to mid-calf. Mixed in was laser tailoring so sharp and precise it did not need hemming.

The colours and the fabrics made this collection shine. Buff, nude, bone, parchment, rose - no thesaurus was left unleafed in the quest to describe these soft hues which were rendered in washed taffeta, crisp cotton and soft cashmere. Texture was all, but it did leave the question: what will the black pack do? A-ha! A small note at the end of the show blurb reveals "quintessentially, it all comes in black".

Which leaves Helmut Lang. The man of the week; the reason every-

one was there in the first place. Tanned and happy after a summer break and cool as a cucumber before his show, he hid just out of sight backstage as his guests arrived.

Every now and then his hand would pop out, beckoning a friend who would be welcomed to his sanctuary for a moment. One got the feeling he was loving every minute, and why not? The show was a perfect Lang experience. Urban, simple in silhouette, and approachable without losing any of the cool factor. These clothes said "you want to wear me". Indeed some of them looked like they had been worn extensive-

ly before their outing, and that, too, is part of the Lang charm. These are city clothes for city people, and what better place to show them than in New York, the ultimate urban environment?

There was the key trouser, flat-fronted, long and slim, some with motorcycle padding at the knee in aged silver leather or black and cream cotton, and worn with utilitarian money belts around the waist or clipped to the upper arm. The vest (or tank) was another key item. It turned up sheer in white and black, opaque in nude and soft beige, others in white cotton had asymmetric

drapes across the chest and, of course, there were the hot pink dresses, some with matching sheer tights worn with high heels, the fluffy beige car-coats, the green parkas, the slim skirts, and the paint-splattered jeans.

As the show ended and the crowd clapped, something became apparent: on the pared-down programme notes, about 10 lines of typed text said: "Underwear, men's shoes, bags, accessories, jeans, clothes, all Helmut Lang." He might be reclusive, but he's got big ideas. I'd put my money on Mr Lang becoming the Calvin Klein of the new millennium.

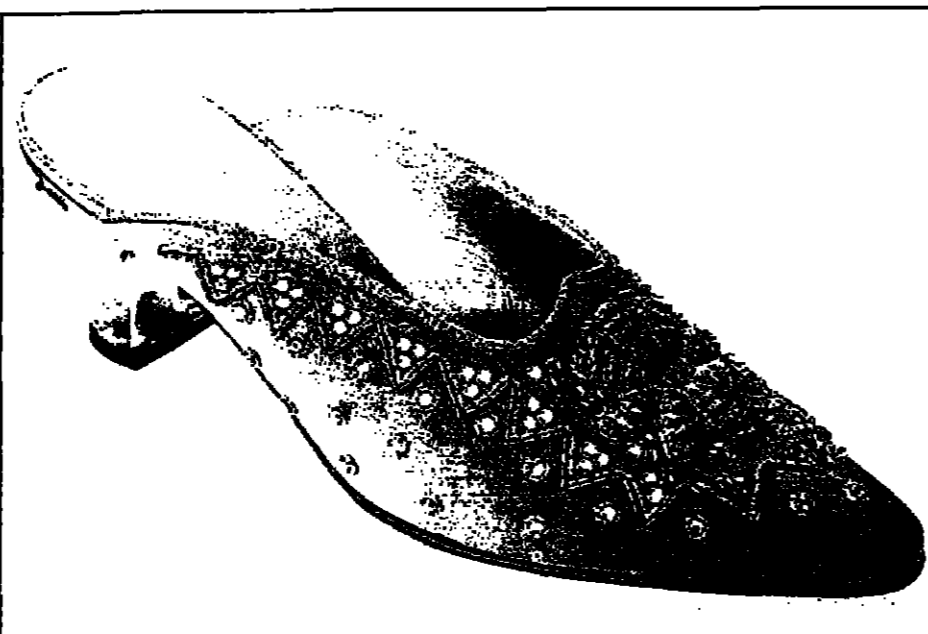
I would go to the ball, if only I could afford the shoes

What you need is a Prince Charming, says Tony Glenville

AS DUSK settled over the Ponte Vecchio in Florence on Friday night, the limousines pulled up at the doors of Palazzo Corsini. The rustle of taffeta and the nervous twisting of bow ties announced the Cinderella ball, the high spot of a weekend to launch *Everafter: A Cinderella Story*, the movie starring Drew Barrymore and due to be released here in October.

It is not often that Florence steals the limelight from New York, Paris, Milan or London, but for one weekend it became the centre of the fashion universe. The fashion pack flew in, eager not only to attend the film's premiere and the ball - Drew Barrymore wore a Ferragamo dress made out of silk "rags" for the premiere and then a sparkling gown for the ball - but also to take a look at the second fashion biennale which includes installations by Antonio Berardi, Alexander McQueen and Comme des Garçons. The theme, appropriately, is film and fashion. The first biennale held in Florence two years ago, was about art and fashion.

Valentino paid tribute to Visconti's film *The Leopard* with a room full of ballgowns. Tom Ford, the designer-in-chief at Gucci, was inspired by the movie *The Tenth Victim* with sunglasses and guns. It was the ball however that was the highlight of the weekend. At Palazzo Corsini, Anjelica Houston



The Princess slipper as designed by Ferragamo for the new 'Cinderella' film

drifted in by grey tulle by Valentino. Björk wore a white leather and gold lamé number by the American designer in Paris, Jeremy Scott. And Megan Dodds wore Ungaro. But what of the glass slipper? By midnight, the ice sculptures of Cinderella's slippers had melted into the darkness. In the film, the slipper is given centre stage. Ferragamo has scored the product placement coup of the decade. Not only does it fit Cinderella's dainty

foot, you see the slipper being manufactured on the silver screen. It was commissioned over a year ago, and is based on an antique shoe at the Ferragamo shoe museum. A tiny mule with a crystal heel, it really is a Cinderella slipper. And just as Cinderella got to go to the ball, so you too can own your own Cinderella slipper.

The kind people at Ferragamo have put a replica of the shoe into production. It has been named the Princess, pre-

sumably because that is what you will turn into when you put it on. It is made of silver satin, woven with silver thread and with a clear perspex heel.

The Princess will set you back a mere £1,350. However, a similar style, without the embroidery, is available from a more modest £145.

Ferragamo, 24 Old Bond Street, London W1. *Ever After: A Cinderella Story* is released in the UK on 9 October.

Ungaro

fashion

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THE INDEPENDENT

The strange beauty of wreckage

Josef Koudelka
photographed
Soviet tanks and
Czech theatre.
His vision was to
transform them
both. By Rachel
Halliburton

The old man hunched before the backdrop riddled with bullet holes says more about desolation than any words could. One shoulder slumps lower than the other, while his sunken cheeks sag on a face scarred with defeat. It is impossible to see his eyes – it is as if they like the windows behind him, have been blown in as a result of the violence.

Tanks and guns have raped him and his surroundings of any meaningful existence: now – like so many others in war-zones across the world – he is a corpse just waiting to happen. The photographer Josef Koudelka took the old man's photograph shortly after the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968. It was an image that was to become famous worldwide, proclaiming the photographer as a key witness to Russia's clampdown on Prague's increasingly liberalised socialism by sending the tanks in.

Koudelka was forced to remain anonymous at the time – but today in the Czech Republic his pictures remain, for many, potent symbols of Czech feeling immediately after the invasion. In one photograph, a youth bares his chest to a Russian tank, daring the soldiers to shoot him down. In another – shot seconds beforehand – two young Czech men triumphantly hold their flag above a street awash with the rubble and emptiness left by tanks that have gone before them.

These unblinking portrayals of human hardship form a small but significant part of the exhibition of Koudelka's work, "From Behind the Iron Curtain", currently on display in the Lyttelton foyer at the National Theatre. The rest of the exhibition lifts the curtain on photos Koudelka took of theatrical productions in Prague before communism crushed the theatres into silence in 1972. These pictures have never been exhibited in the West before.

To Westerners it may appear to be a strange juxtaposition – combining the harsh realities of the So-



The image that announced a key witness to the Soviet invasion of Prague, 1968. Right, a scene from of Chekhov's *Ivanov*

Josef Koudelka/Magnum

viet invasion with dramas made more trivial by the fact that they can be washed away at the end of the evening with the greasepaint. In fact, it is only by working out the links between the two sections of the exhibition that viewers will be able to get to the heart of what Koudelka's work really is about.

A simplistic conclusion might be that because censorship played such a significant part in Soviet oppression, the link between these two sections is rooted in politics. Put this to Koudelka, however, and he dismisses this as too pat. The grizzled, slightly mischievous-looking photographer huddles over a cup of tea and starts to explain.

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From *Behind the Iron Curtain* is at the Lyttelton foyer, RNT, London SE1. "Chaos" will be published by Nathan; "Exiles", revised edition, is published by Thames and Hudson, price £32

A timeless movement

WHEN ROBERT Simpson died last November, with 11 symphonies, 15 string quartets and a host of other substantial works to his credit, he left a substantial gap in Britain's musical life behind him. He had been the country's musical conscience: an unapologetic radical himself, in his broadcasts and writings Simpson held the modern age to account.

As each wave of watery fashion washed over a credulous musical establishment, he furthered the values he held important – not least the power of tonality to generate energy and momentum. But his own music – as important as anything being composed here – he would not push, and it was to do some pushing on its behalf that the Robert Simpson Society was formed in 1980. The resultant series of recordings, on the Hyperion label, has made Simpson's name a byword for musical honesty around the world. Simpson left his body to medical science. So the concert organised by

CLASSICAL ROBERT SIMPSON MEMORIAL CONCERT ST JOHN'S, SMITH SQUARE LONDON

the Simpson Society at St John's was a form of secular funeral.

But it was the kind of funeral Simpson the hardcore humanist would have enjoyed. There was no unkempt sentiment and no religion; instead, there was something really sacred: music – in this instance, obviously, his own, topped with a quartet by the man he admired above all others, Beethoven.

Simpson's Seventh Quartet, written in 1977, uses the slow-fast-slow arch-form that he particularly favoured, with long, intertwining lines that gradually surge into a passionate climax before spiralling slowly into space.

This particular quartet was well chosen to illustrate another of his

passions, astronomy: it was commissioned in memory of the astronomer Sir James Jeans.

That sense of size, of the pull of large forces informed almost everything Simpson wrote, and something of the elemental calm he could achieve informed the richly ruminative Adagio by Matthew Taylor.

Taylor is one of many young composers who admit the importance of Simpson's example, and this Adagio is an explicit tribute, an unsentimental reminiscence of the timeless slow movements at the heart of many of Simpson's own quartets. Both works were performed by the Delme Quartet, whose playing Simpson always treasured.

Variation-form was another of Simpson's favourite stomping grounds, and two works showed what power he could derive from it.

The Violin Sonata, commissioned in 1984 by Pauline Lowbury and Christopher Green-Armitage and played by them here with patent con-

viction, uses variation in its second movement, scherzo and fugal finale, informed by the grim humour typical of Simpson the man. He took the same unity-through-diversity approach in the *Variations and Finale on a Theme of Beethoven*, composed in 1990 for Raymond Clarke, who performed it here.

Simpson's piano writing is not particularly idiomatic: he seems to hear the music from the instrument, and Clarke projected its fierce energy with genuine excitement.

The gathering was predominantly one of Simpson's friends, on both sides of the platform, with the artists giving their services for the occasion. It says much for the respect he commanded that the Vanbrugh Quartet made the long journey from Ireland to play. Their luminous reading of Beethoven's Tenth Quartet, "The Harp", op 74, would have brought him much pleasure.

MARTIN ANDERSON

The loser's a winner

LEE EVANS has his critics. He is Jerry Lewis crossed with Jim Carrey, only more irritating than both, say some. Or worse still, according to others, he is Norman Wisdom without the laughs.

Certainly, Evans has elevated playing the fool into an art form. From the moment he bumbles on stage and bumps into the microphone stand, you know that you are in the presence of someone who in an Elizabethan court would have been wearing a cap and bells.

But audiences feel they have found a kindred spirit in this comic who so obviously revels in failure. He appeals to the idiot in us all. A nervy jitterbug who often apologises after gags, he trades in those distinctively British currencies: embarrassment, incompetence and inadequacy.

Not for Evans the swaggering, cocksure arrogance of the lachrymose stand-ups so beloved of the glossier men's magazines. Even an apparently simple act like pushing

COMEDY LEE EVANS APOLLO THEATRE LONDON



a luggage trolley turns into a farce. Last night, he failed in a joke attempt to hang himself when the chair he was standing on gave way.

Later he poked fun at the idea of such a humble fool performing in the surroundings of a West End theatre. "I was going to put stone cladding

and a satellite dish on the front."

The two-and-a-quarter-hour show had its longeurs and there was more discussion of bodily functions than in the entire Starr report. Evans admitted that routines about shopping and flatulence are hardly going to topple the Government. "It's not about anything," he shrugged. "I don't come on and say 'We should march on Buckingham Palace'."

But you have to admire a man who puts so much into being a dork. Within minutes of taking the stage last night, he was sweating so much he was delighted when someone threw him a towel.

Clowns are frequently tragically unhappy, but you get more energy and entertainment from one inspired Lee Evans mine than from a whole big top full of men with red noses. Mesmerising, manic, mad, he is a one-man confederacy of dunces.

Until 21 November (0171-494 5582) JAMES RAMPTON

Love in an indoor climate

KATIE MITCHELL'S staging of *Jenufa* is Welsh National Opera's first foray into the old Pouter/Bjornson Janacek cycle, the most durable of which, *The House of the Dead*, was revived as recently as last summer.

There is no drastic reassessment. *Jenufa* is still a psychologically acute study of love struggling to adjust to a world where the old social and moral certainties are disintegrating. But the focus is new, sharp and sometimes provocative. Fresh from Chekhov, Mitchell scrapes the village green elements of the action and moves it indoors. The world looks in (occasionally bursts in) through doors and windows but, like the village girls at Jenufa's wedding, it is uninvited and bodes no good.

OPERA

JENUFA
WELSH NATIONAL OPERA
NEW THEATRE, CARDIFF

After recovering from the shock of an indoor first act (and having forgiven WNO for the bizarre decision to play the work in Czech), I enjoyed almost everything about this production. Vicki Mortimer's designs catch perfectly the flatness of Jenufa's Moravian life until she realises the depth of Laca's love. But they avoid the symbolism. The tone is precise and the detail authentic.

True, she has her lapses. The wretched plastic baby in the third act is certainly one truthful detail too many, just as the levitating house wall at the end (double underlining Jen-

ufo's mental release) is one too few. But the portraiture is so vivid, and above all so musical, that one can forget the odd vulgarity. The key lies in Mitchell's idea of a far-from-youthful Laca, and a gauche virile Steva: the inward and the outward starkly contrasted in another way. Nigel Robson makes much of Laca's spiritual refinement within an unprepossessing frame, while John Dazak lumbers around uncomprehendingly as Steva. Both are excellent.

I'm less convinced by Suzanne Murphy's Kostelnicek, for some reason bourgeoisified in dress, and only intermittently tortured in presence. Her singing too, is patchy, though strong in the final scene. Rosalind Sutherland's Jenufa is problematical

for rather different reasons. The voice is exquisite but the manner slightly dim, though she is very touching in the crucial scenes with Laca. Alas, she is often drowned in the lower regions by Daniel Harding's committed but sometimes unrestrained handling of Janacek's awkward balances. It's a fault this young conductor ought to address, because the feeling of his Janacek is superb – full of colour and emotional energy, but always accurately paced, and for the most part incisively executed.

In Cardiff until 30 September (01222 878889), then on tour to Oxford, Swansea, Southampton, Birmingham, Bristol and Liverpool. Further details 01222 464666

STEPHEN WALSH

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And now for the drama of the century

The National Theatre is doing its millennial stocktake. What are the most significant plays? And what does significant mean anyway, asks David Benedict

Very late in the day, someone spotted the double meaning in the suggested name of a new foodstuff in development, which meant we never got to eat Birds Eye Crispy Cod Pieces. Similarly, some bright spark at the Barbican saved the day by spotting that the initials of the putative title for its international theatre festival, Pre-Millennial Theatre, was asking for trouble.

Beneath the branding, the Barbican is only indulging in what virtually every other cultural institution and certainly every conceivable branch of the media is doing. We are up to our eyes in millennial stock-taking, succumbing to *fin-de-siècle* fever. Portentous lists of The Century's Best are being busily compiled and the latest contender in the ring is the National Theatre which has launched NT2000, a celebration of the most "significant" plays of the century. The deadline for submissions is now past and all we have to do is wait for the results of the poll of 800 writers, actors, directors, designers, academics, administrators, critics, commentators and politicians who have been asked to cite 10 plays and, in an echo of *Desert Island Discs*, to answer the question: "And if you could only have one..."

The most important question in such compilations is not which work comes out on top, but rather, how do you define your terms? As with all surveys and statistical pile-ups, the truth lies in the methodology. The National initially sets out its stall very strictly. The plays must be written in English or translated by the author. That means we can pick works Beckett originally wrote in French but not Chekhov's masterpiece *The Cherry Orchard* which for many, myself included, is the play of the century.

It also banishes Brecht and Pinter, without whom acres of the dramatic repertoire of the second half of the century would have

been inconceivable up to and including Stephen Sondheim. Sondheim has often announced his dislike of Brecht but the interplay of distance and emotional engagement in his own work is completely indebted to Brechtian techniques.

Not that Sondheim's work is up for consideration. Musicals have been barred. This is largely due to practical reasons, as the votes cast will result in a list of 100 plays being presented in a year-long series of 45-minute platform events, each one highlighted with discussions and excerpts. Presenting musicals in this fashion is impossibly expensive and you are faced with the problem of collaboration. In the majority of cases it is the music which makes them great, which means lauding composers rather than writers.

Clearly, the intended emphasis is on dramatic literature. Unfortunately, the National then muddles the waters. Recognising the sub-

direction and text, this opens the door to hugely enjoyable productions of second-rate plays in which, say, a stellar performance blinded audiences to weaknesses in the writing (Judith Dench in *Ami's View*), which is surely missing the point. Of course the yardstick of enjoyment is important but it panders dangerously to the intellectually lazy notion that "what I like" is the same as "what is good". Whatever happened to objectivity? Thus critical rigour goes out the window and the term "significant" is reduced to a state of meaninglessness.

Yet even if one adheres strictly to the criterion of "significance", what does that mean? The National suggests that the word be used in the sense of "great, influential or important". Larry Kramer's *Ami's View* call *The Normal Heart* was massively significant in social and political terms but although it made for powerful theatre, by no stretch of the imagination is it a great play.

It is more useful to see "influential" as applying to not only the imagination and emotions of audiences but to the evolution of theatre itself. This means that John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger* is a dead-cert for inclusion. The first "kitchen sink drama", it sent shock-waves through the theatrical establishment in 1956. Revivals have revealed, however, that although the writing for the central character Jimmy Porter created a massively influential new voice in every sense, the play as a whole is unbalanced, overwritten, misogynist and deeply sentimental.

Nor is it Osborne's best, a point which leads us to the crux of the matter. Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* is, without doubt, the century's single most influential play. It redefined almost every rule of plot, character and structure but it was just the beginning of Beckett's journey. His compelling syntheses of theatrical image and metaphor grew purer and more intensely dramatic as his career progressed. Play

The yardstick of enjoyment panders to the intellectually lazy notion that 'what I like' is the same as 'what is good'

jective nature of it all, the small print allows us to choose plays that represent a genre, a period of history, or reflect popular choice. The last of these means we should probably have to opt for *The Mousetrap* which has, after all, been running for nearly half the period under discussion. Worst of all, we're encouraged to include "simply plays that you have enjoyed".

Given that most people cannot distinguish between performance,



Top-ten contender: Noël Coward and Gertrude Lawrence in 'Private Lives' (1930)

Mander and Mitchenson

(1963), *Not I* (1973), and *Footfalls* (1976), to name but three, are finer, more dramatically distilled works.

It is the same story with Harold Pinter. His first full-length play *The Birthday Party* (a miserable flop in 1958) heralded a sea-change in the construction of dialogue and the rendering of theatrical "realism", and that is just for starters. It was early days for a talent that flowered further with *The Homecoming* (1965) and reached maturity with the fully achieved and astonishingly fluid *Old Times* (1971) or the magnificent *Betrayal* (1978).

The game would be altogether easier if one were being asked to name the century's greatest playwrights, about whom there is surprisingly little dissension. The problem here is that greatness, removed from the excitement of fashion, needs time to reveal itself. The closer one gets to the present, the harder it is to assess the importance and resonance of a particular play. With a dead playwright, all one has to do is to select the finest, most mature expression of his or her ambition and achievement, but the untested nature of recent judgments means that younger writers get a raw deal. Tony Kushner's *Angels in America* or Phyllis Nagy's *Never Land* may turn out to be massively influential, but who can tell?

The final problem is partial

knowledge. All sorts of circumstances lead one to describe a play as so-and-so's best, not least of which is having seen key works in either good or bad productions. My favourite David Mamet play is *Sexual Perversity in Chicago* but deep down I know that *American Buffalo* is better but unlike the for-

leagues. So with my apologies to ghastly omissions like Bernard Shaw, Terence Rattigan, Edward Albee, Joe Orton, David Mamet and all your favourites, here is my utterly impartial list in chronological order.

Private Lives (1930): Noël Coward's most perfectly constructed play. A bewitching marital comedy of passion and denial whose surface laughter is built upon extraordinary emotional depth.

A Long Day's Journey Into Night (1940): Eugene O'Neill's self-lacerating family drama has a unique rhythm and a compelling cumulative power.

A Streetcar Named Desire (1947): Tennessee Williams's vividly atmospheric, lyrical masterpiece.

The Crucible (1953): Arthur Miller's flawed but dramatically gripping allegory of McCarthyism set during the Salem witch-trials.

Saved (1965): Edward Bond's play caused one of theatre's most notorious scandals for the scene in which a baby is stoned to death in a pram. All of which obscured the power of his vision, the economy and compression of his dramatic language and - an essential criterion - the compassion of the writing.

Not I (1973): Samuel Beckett's searingly beautiful depiction of humanity through the mouth of a woman. A truly unforgettable piece of dramatic writing.

The Norman Conquests (1973): Alan Ayckbourn's brilliantly interwoven comic trilogy grows in depth and complexity before your very eyes, is minutely observed and, frankly, hilarious.

Betrayal (1979): Harold Pinter's elegiac story of a love triangle played in reverse is so assured that even people who think they don't like or "get" Pinter fall under its heart-breaking spell.

Racing Demon (1990): David Hare's masterpiece is a superbly layered state-of-the-nation play using plots within the Church of England hierarchy to illuminate ideas of faith with a rare breadth of sympathy.

And, finally, my play of the century:

Top Girls (1982): Caryl Churchill's stunningly moving study of the enticements of power and the contradictions we are forced to face was groundbreaking in its reworking of the basic dramatic rules governing time, manner and place. It was also utterly alive to the world in which she was writing and remains so today.

As with sex surveys, some people will undoubtedly select plays that put themselves in a good light

I have yet to see a truly outstanding revival of it to convince me. Conversely, to my shame, I don't know how to place Harley Granville Barker, an important playwright from the early 1900s, most of whose work I have never seen.

However you strive for objective analysis, personal bias creeps in. Not to mention lies. As with sex surveys, some people will undoubtedly select plays that put themselves in a good light or recommend the work of col-

It's all lies, cries Barbara Windsor

THE NATIONAL under Trevor Nunn seems to be going through something of an identity crisis. It thinks it's a cinema complex. Over on Screen One, there's *Oklahama!* Now the Lyttelton's proscenium arch, which also plays host to Fiona Shaw's larger-than-life Miss Jean Brodie, has been tarted up as the Odeon big-screen that taste never knew: an imposing art-deco facade bathed in an orangey fake-tan glow, framing the ruched curtain of your worst nightmares.

When that curtain rises on Terry Johnson's gag-packed *Carry On* pastiche *Cleo, Camping, Emmanuelle and Dick*, we are treated to mock credits, beginning with the full-bodied attack on the trademark Rank logo, followed by a juddering succession of garish celluloid images that abruptly melts in flames. It sets

out Johnson's stall nicely - this is both an affectionate, elaborately imitative homage to a landmark of British comedy and a much darker retrospective than you'll ever find at the NFT. What follows represents a successful cross-fertilisation of the surreal celebrity gatherings of *Insignificance* (Marilyn Monroe and Einstein) or *Hysteria* (Freud and Dali) and the dissection of Benny Hill-style humour that made *Dead Funny* so poignantly funny.

The action takes place over 14 years, during the shooting of four of the 29 films, from the apotheosis of Peter Rogers's and Gerald Thomas's end-of-the-pier smut machine, 1964's *Cleo*, to the creative knacker's yard of 1978's *Emmanuelle*, after Sid James's death. Although different locations are denoted by backstage projections, the

THEATRE
CLEO, CAMPING,
EMMANUELLE AND DICK
NATIONAL THEATRE, LONDON

feel is predominantly *Carry On* *Camping*, the scenes being almost entirely confined to a cross-section of James's "Merry Traveller" trailer, which hogs the stage throughout with a precarious humphousness.

The cramped conditions help create a pervasive sense of entombment, fetid talent, but Johnson, who directs, has no problem utilising every inch of space for the kind of farcical comings and goings that are his meat and veg. He directed a rompy version of the Restoration comedy *The London Cuckolds* at the Lyttelton earlier in the year. This is a behind-the-scenes world in

which the focus is ever on self-display into the nooks and crannies of El Sid's rocking caravan of love as he lay his hands on.

Not surprisingly, the trailer rumbles with Kenneth Williams, who delivers his opinion the minute he sets a Roman-sandalled foot inside. "I am outraged! This takes the biscuit. And not just any biscuit, I'm talking McVities plain chocolate digestives slightly melted and stuck together in threes." Adam Godley captures the whimpering exuberance and nasal hauteur of Williams perfectly, aided by a script that teems with caustic comments and the kind of fifth-rate double entendres the wag couldn't resist.

Johnson has him locked into hilarious marital bickering with the adulterous, letch-by-rote James

(Geoffrey Hutchings, who looks and sounds the spit, down to the croaky laugh and squinty eyes). "You've never suffered the abject, creeping horror of an ailing anus!" the latter is told. No, but he does suffer as intensely as Williams the hollowness of a comic actor running out of time and popular favour. Just as Samantha Spiro's Barbara (so good you wonder whether she is a replicant) can only inspect Williams's anus from afar, so she has to keep her distance from a lover for whom there can be no rescue.

"It's all lies!" I heard the real Barbara Windsor giggle during the opening night. Taken in context, that was a real compliment.

In rep at the Lyttelton Theatre, London, SE1 (0171-452 3000)
DOMINIC CAVENTISH



Geoffrey Hutchings plays Sid James

Geraint Lewis

CLASSIFIED

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ON THE FRINGE

DOMINIC CAVENTISH

THIS WEEK has seen the UK premiere of the first play written by an American and presented at a professional theatre. It has taken us a staggering 211 years to stage Royall Tyler's *The Contrast*.

The fact that this comedy of manners is so little known to us might be adduced to its lack of artistic merit and/or the vagueness surrounding its status as a dramatic "first": after all, a glance at a reference book tells us that the first play performed in English-speaking America was *The Bear and the Cub*, in Virginia in 1665, and that many other plays were penned prior to the War of Independence.

What Upstart Crow's eminently watchable production suggests is that, if *The Contrast* has been overlooked over here, it is not because it is a poor endeavour, but because it is so markedly an endeavour.

Rather than putting his name to it, Tyler, a lawyer and

soldier, attributed it to "A citizen of the United States" and the work is a tentative fathoming out of what it might mean to be such a citizen. He also follows a British model while attempting to turn away from it.

The contrast alluded to in the title, it soon emerges, is between two kinds of citizen: one who affects European airs and graces, and another whose relative lack of sophistication is compensated for by a nobility of spirit. The former is the foppish, Chesterfield-quoting Dimple (Matthew Rixon), "a depraved wretch, whose only virtue is a polished exterior."

He is attempting to break off his engagement to Maria by making advances towards two coquettish friends, Letitia and Charlotte. The latter's brother, a uniform-obsessed colonel, and his dull-witted Yankee servant Jonathan are the butt of many a joke, but ultimately prove their mettle.

Director Melanie Wynyard keeps the light plot dancing along, and, benefiting from some well-judged comic performances, brings the undated central tussle between self-interest and self-sacrifice to the fore. Her actors frequently address their remarks to the house, sending up the didactic spirit of the piece and softening the pomposity of Tyler's cultural introspection.

There is a vicious contrast in Nick Green's Her Alabaster Skin, just opened at the White Bear in Kennington, between ornate, quietly menacing gangster patter and outrageous tuggery. The first section is not particularly promising, a poor man's *Krapp's Last Tape*: a nervy, solitary man called Joel Parker (Nick Barra) sits recording advice to his son like a latter-day Chesterfield.

A stack of tapes provides the only furniture other than a table and two chairs. With the

arrival of the waiter and, then, the manager of the restaurant upstairs, offering him a free meal to compensate for noise, things turn extremely sour.

Parker soon finds himself stripped naked, bound and gagged, and awaiting unspeakable acts of torture. This is a nasty piece of work, which never quite stops feeling school of Pinter, and structurally it crumples unsatisfyingly in the second half. But insouciant performances (particularly from John O'Byrne's terminally bored serial killer) bring out the remorselessness of Green's dialogue, which conjures up clubbable, get-ahead males and the powerlessness of those who lead dreamy, independent lives.

'The Contrast', The Cochrane, WC1 (0171-242 7040) To 17 Oct; Her Alabaster Skin, White Bear, London, SE11 (0171-793 9193) To 4 Oct

Lords of the manna

Some freehold property owners are not giving tenants the best deals in buildings insurance because they are earning attractive commissions. By Karen Woolfson

Some freehold landlords are making sizeable profits from arranging buildings insurance for properties. The deal involves creating a structure that allows them to receive commission for placing their insurance policies and charging higher than necessary prices to leaseholders to finance the deal.

The landlord may then be tempted to place the business with a company offering the highest commission rather than the one that offers the best policy at the most reasonable price.

The more leasehold properties a freeholder controls, the more scope there is to take advantage of the system. The freeholder typically sets up an insurance broking company to arrange wholesale cover for all his properties. The landlord will receive commission for arranging the cover via the broking company.

Leaseholders therefore end up paying much more for buildings insurance than they would as individuals on the open market. Moreover, the charge for insurance should decrease the more flats that are being covered because buying in bulk normally pushes down the cost.

Paul Pritchard, of the Freshwater Lessees Alliance (Fleas), which has more than 1,500 members, says their landlord, the Freshwater Group, has been challenged about the high amount charged for insurance through Highdown, the broker it owns and which acts for it.

Ed Elliott, another committee member of Fleas, who lives in Burnham and Windsor Courts, London, alleges: "Freshwater admitted in February Highdown is receiving 30 per cent commission on the buildings insurance. All it takes is a couple of phone calls to arrange insurance and if there is any commission it should be returned to leaseholders."

Mr Elliott ensured that the original insurance estimate of £41,866 presented by Freshwater to 90 leasehold flats in 1996 was reduced to £16,376 by coming up with some competitive quotes. "That's a staggering difference of £25,490," he said.

"Even after that incredible reduction, the sum charged was £3,838 more than the amount quoted by an alternative insurance company. This year we'll be demanding Freshwater shops around for the best deal and rebates at least 75 per cent of any commission received to leaseholders."

Terence Michael, a leaseholder in Kensington, west London, says: "The law is not tough enough and some landlords are finding the opportunity to make a special arrangement with an insurer irresistible." He wants all insurance deals to be completely independent of the landlord and stresses this should also apply to relationships with solicitors, accountants, surveyors and any other company or person connected with the management of the property.

"Some landlords just don't bother choosing the best deal. Leaseholders paying out the money are not being given any choice about where

'Some landlords just don't bother choosing the best deal. Leaseholders paying out the money are not being given any choice'

the insurance business is being placed and end up with a poor deal. In a number of cases, leaseholders have found insurance cover for less money and plan to challenge their landlords through a Leasehold Valuation Tribunal," he said.

Robert Hedden, group solicitor at Freshwater, defends the company from allegations that its insurance charges are too high. He said: "Our objective is to ensure that the number of insurance companies which we deal with is sufficient to maintain healthy competition. It is not in our lessees' interest to accept loss-leading quotes, which would inevitably lead to disputes over claims and higher charges over the long-term."

Mr Hedden says that Highdown's commission earnings are in line with the market and the 30-per-cent figure quoted "well within the range of what might generally be expected". The current commission rate is now 20 per cent. This sum is payment for Highdown's "complex" work in insuring the Freshwater blocks, plus dealing with claims and inquiries from lessees. The company does not charge a second fee to leaseholders for its activities.

He adds that when Freshwater produced its estimate for the cost of insurance for 1996/97, the sum of £41,866 was arrived at by taking the previous year's sum and assuming a 7-per-cent "uplift". The £16,376 figure was not comparable because it did not, unlike the original quote, include engineering and terrorism insurance. However, Mr Elliott, from the Fleas committee, claims the final quotes for terrorism and engineering cover were £856 and £1,813 respectively which, even if added to the new £16,376 total, were still much lower than the original estimate. In the event, the bill for the general insurance element came in even lower, at £15,253.

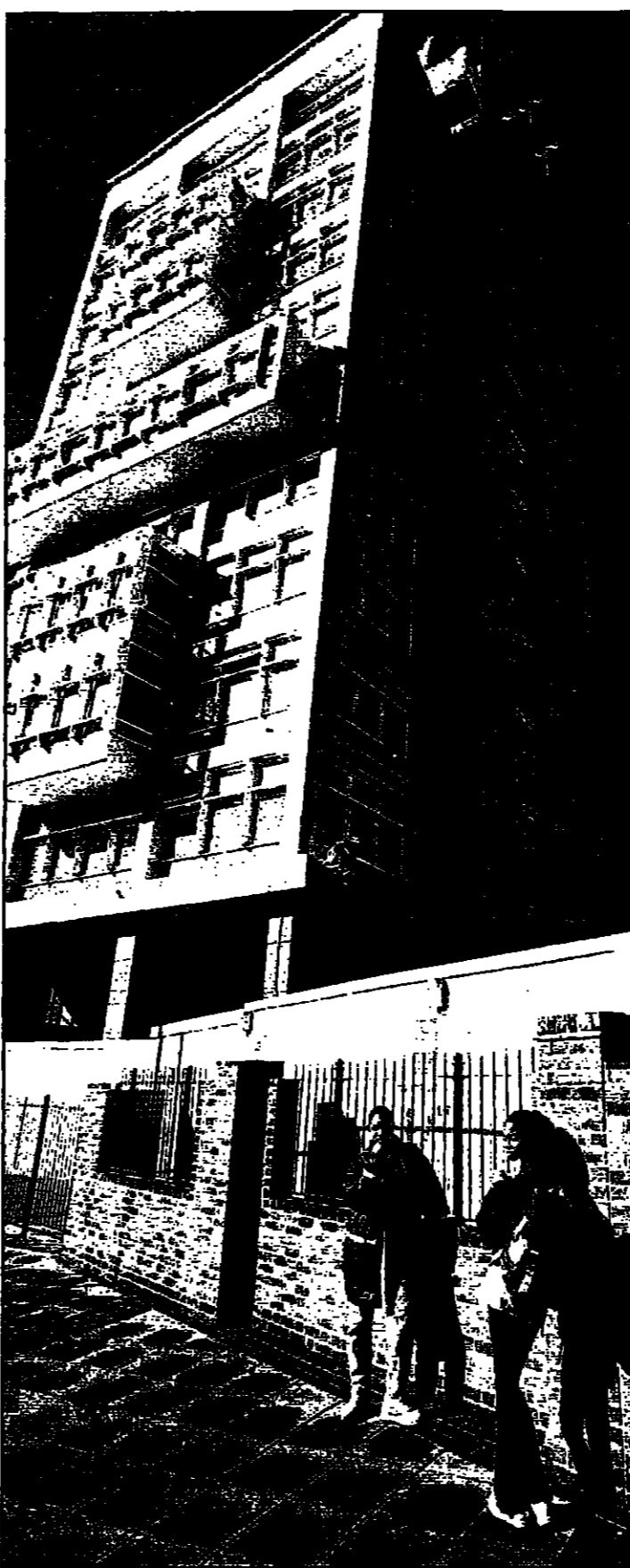
Separate from the row between Freshwater and its leaseholders, landlords are generally responsible for the insurance of a building under the lease and have the right to appoint the insurer. However, under leasehold legislation you have the right to ask for information about the insurance and the cost of the policy must be "reasonable".

You can ask the landlord to give you a written summary of the insurance cover, which must be supplied within one month. This should include the sum for which the property is insured, the name of the insurer and the risks covered. Your landlord may provide a copy of the relevant policy instead. Once you have seen the policy or received a summary, you can ask to inspect the insurance policy and supporting documents which provide evidence the premiums have been paid.

In some cases, the leaseholder is responsible for insuring the property but the landlord can nominate the insurer. You can challenge this arrangement if the cover is unsatisfactory in any respect or the premiums being charged are excessive.

It is worth checking the building is covered for its full re-instatement value and that the cover allows for inflation. The tenancy relations officer at your local council will be able to give you more information. If the policy is deemed unreasonable your council may help enforce these legal rights.

You are welcome to write to Karen Woolfson, Homebattles, c/o Nick Cicutt, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. Karen regrets she is unable to reply personally to all letters



Ensure that your home is well insured

Andrew Burrman

No guarantee is set in stone

THE TIME has come the Walrus said, to think of many things, of ships and shoes and sealing wax of cabbages and kings and why the sea is boiling hot and whether pigs have wings.

THE FIXERS



RODDY KOHN

"I do like reciting that poem," I said to Mary, as she sat herself down on my Chesterfield. "Do you realise I won a school prize for my recitation of it at the tender age of 10?"

"Trying not to laugh out loud, Mary enquired: "Was that in short trousers by any chance?"

Somewhat defensively I said "I'll have you know, there is a link between Lewis Carroll's poem and guaranteed investments."

Mary replied: "As far as I am concerned, guaranteed investment products seem particularly appealing when stockmarkets are as wobbly as ours appear to be."

I said: "Guaranteed investments are a paradox. On the one hand we all like to think that when something is referred to as guaranteed it means just that..."

Mary was one step ahead of me: "I'm not sure I want to hear what your going to say next - in fact don't tell, let me guess. Even when something says it is guaranteed it is not necessarily guaranteed."

Now it was my turn to smile: "That's right. It never ceases to amaze me that even when we put our money into the building society we are still taking a risk."

"This time I am confused," she retorted. "How on earth can placing my money on deposit be taking a risk. After all, I can put £5,000 in my account today and know it will be £5,000 plus interest in 10 years' time."

I replied: "The capital will be there and the interest but the risk dimension is inflation. If it has risen at a faster rate than the rate of interest then the capital will be worth less in real terms."

"None of us should view anything we do with our money as being without risk. By coming to terms with this we can reconcile the price to be paid for having less risk."

Mary asked: "OK, so how does this fit in with other guaranteed investments?"

I replied: "That's easy. We are all apt to see the word 'guaranteed' as something which can be relied upon without asking ourselves how financially strong the company offering the guarantee actually is?"

"Does this mean I have to read a balance sheet to work out who is safe?"

My answer was: "No, but it does mean you or your adviser should pay particular attention to the small print in any literature you are given - it always pays to be vigilant."

Here are some good rules of thumb:

- When an organisation offers a guaranteed product remember to ask under what circumstances would this guarantee not be met?
- If a product refers to it being 'capital-protected' remind yourself that this is not the same as 'guaranteed'. What it normally means is somebody else is providing the guarantee, so you have to think about that company's strength. You will sometimes find that a company offering a capital secure product is a better choice than a company offering a guaranteed product.
- Some guarantees require a certain event to happen before the capital is paid back, such as the FTSE 100 being higher in five years time than its starting point.

Roddy Kohn is principal at independent financial advisers Kohn Cougar, at Wellington House, Wellington Park, Clifton, Bristol, BS8

What do you do when your insurance against disaster fails to protect you? John Andrew has some advice

Every safety net needs a safety net

HAS YOUR insurance company refused to pay up after a car smash? Did your holiday end in disaster when a thief stole your luggage - but you can't get the money back on your policy?

You need to consult the Insurance Ombudsman Bureau (IOB), set up in 1981. The IOB has over 50 staff, many of whom are lawyers and the ombudsman himself is Walter Merricks, a solicitor.

The service, which is provided free to complainants, is funded by most, but not all, of the nation's insurance companies. Its annual operating budget is just over £1m. Though funded by the industry, the ombudsman and his staff are keen to stress their independence and impartiality. Indeed, the previous ombudsman, Julian Farrand, was often at loggerheads with some members of the scheme whom he felt were obstructing his work.

Of the general insurance cases investigated, which are those relating to non-life cover such as car, travel and household policies, about one third are found in favour of policyholders. For life cover, the decisions are evenly split.

The scheme was originally established to deal with complaints about personal insurance policies. Commercial cover can only be investigated if the insurer agrees. Most of the other schemes encourage individuals to resolve any dispute through a company's internal procedure before involving the ombudsman, but the Insurance Ombudsman Bureau does not.

Policyholders with a complaint complete the bureau's form and forward it to its enquiries and applications department. The bureau will then contact the insurer, which in turn writes to the policyholder outlining its complaints procedure.

This must be followed to the point where the insurer reaches a "final decision". If the complaint remains unresolved after two months, the policyholder must contact the bureau who will pursue the complaint further.

The ombudsman can deal with complaints if:

- It concerns an applicant personally.
- It relates to a policy issued in the UK by a member of the scheme.
- It is about a claim or the administration of the policy.

The ombudsman cannot investigate complaints if:

- The dispute is with someone else's insurer.
- The complaint relates to the level of premiums or decisions as to which risks to cover.
- The matter is already subject to legal proceedings.
- More than six months have elapsed since the insurer's "final decision".

During 1997, the bureau received 67,601 enquiries - 53,432 by phone and 14,169 by post. More than half - 35,027 - related to matters outside its terms of reference.

Of the 32,574 enquiries within the terms of reference, only 4,629 led to an investigation by the bureau - 27,945 were either resolved under insurers' internal complaint procedures, or the complainants did not proceed. The investigated cases do not include those where the insurer decided to raise its offer or withdraw its rejection of a claim before investigation by the bureau.

The ombudsman's annual report for 1997 notes: "This happens on a number of occasions and it is for this reason that no complaint may be investigated until the insurer's chief executive has had the opportunity of reviewing the

matter." This suggests that policyholders should never give up.

Basically, the scheme covers: household, motor, travel, health, loan protection and personal accident insurance. Despite the fact that officially other types of work were transferred to the Personal Investment Authority Ombudsman Bureau (PIAOB) in July 1994, the IOB continues to adjudicate on some cases involving life and long term insurance (which includes permanent health cover).

Although term assurance (a policy which pays out a sum should the policyholder die before a certain date) and some permanent health policies are technically not investments, the PIAOB has taken these under its wing. Nevertheless, last year, the IOB investigated 826 such cases.

These were dealt with under the terms of an agreement with the PIAOB. Insurers decide whether cases should be investigated by the IOB or the PIAOB.

Policyholders in dispute over term or permanent health insurance should ask their insurer which ombudsman deals with complaints.

Having investigated a complaint, the IOB's decision is final. There is no right of appeal, but policyholders are free to take legal action against the insurer. The ombudsman has the power to impose payments of up to £100,000 on insurers. In 1997 the awards totalled over £6m, with the highest being £250,000. The average for general insurance was £3,065 and for life and long term insurance £5,629.

The Insurance Ombudsman Bureau may be contacted at: 135 Park Street, London, SE1 9EA (0845 600 6666)

Want some good advice?

Andrew Couchman seeks a financial adviser with the morals of a saint

AT LEAST once in all our lives, there comes the realisation that the particular financial conundrum we face needs expert help. Many of us would like to have our own financial adviser, all too often, however, the fear of being taken for a ride means we take no action at all.

In fact, any good independent financial adviser will recognise this problem. He or she should be happy to sit down with you and answer any questions you may have. Here are 10 questions to ask.

Are you tied or independent?

A key question, this will tell you whether your adviser is an independent financial adviser (IFA). If so, they are obliged to give you the best advice, which means recommending the products and services to meet your needs from across the market. A tied agent is contracted to one company or marketing group and cannot look outside their product range except for non-regulated products such as deposit accounts, mortgages and general insurance. IFAs should be able to offer you a better deal for most products but tied agents have the advantage of back-up from their employer.

Do you have professional indemnity (PI) cover?

Professional indemnity cover is essential for IFAs and means that if they give you bad advice or are otherwise held to be negligent you can sue them and their insurer should pay. Such policies have financial cover limits and are subject to exclusions so evidence of such cover is no guarantee you would quickly be paid any compensation due.

Are you a member of a professional body?

Many advisers are members of one or more trade or professional bodies. The leading professional body is the Society of Financial Advisers, part of the 100-year-old Chartered Institute of the CII, and its full members hold the Advanced



Wanted: a financial adviser you can trust with your life

Financial Planning Certificate (AFPC) and use the letters MSFA, ASFA or FSFA after their names depending on whether they are an ordinary member, associate or fellow. The AFPC is a much tougher and more specialised exam than the basic Financial Planning Certificate (FPC). The Chartered Institute of Bankers has its own FPC equivalent examinations, though fewer advisers have chosen this route.

What qualifications do you have?

The Financial Planning Certificate (FPC) or equivalent is now a legal requirement to be able to trade, and trainees without the qualification have to be supervised until they pass the three FPC exams. Other qualifications may include the higher-level AFPC, the CII's and SOA's professional associate and associate qualifications and the Institute of Taxation. Lawyers and accountants are allowed to give advice as part of their normal profession.

Can I talk to some of your existing clients?

Do not be afraid to ask to speak to

one or more existing customers before committing yourself. Personal recommendations still mean a lot. When you do talk to them do not just ask them if they are happy with that adviser: ask them for evidence the adviser has actually delivered the right advice. This might be good investment returns from a product recommended by the adviser or a large cut in their tax bill.

What areas can you not help me with?

It makes sense to know your adviser's limitations as well as their specialisms. Few advisers can offer tax advice, legal advice or even practical help in specialist areas such as long-term care so make sure what they can offer is what you want.

How are you paid?

Advice is usually paid for by fee, either at an hourly rate or at a pre-agreed level or by commission from the product provider. With the former your adviser gets no financial benefit from choosing any particular provider and many companies will offer a better deal if they are not paying commission. However you will

have to pay what could be a large sum, especially if your needs are complex. Expect to pay about the same hourly rate as you would pay your accountant or solicitor.

What other expertise is available to you, and how?

Few advisers will be experts across every sector and in some firms one adviser may deal with pensions, one with investments, one with health insurance and so on. There may also be working relationships with local accountants and solicitors and perhaps even bankers. If you are offered an introduction to another specialist firm, check to shop around to compare price and service.

Has your regulator ever disciplined you or your firm?

With an increasing number of firms and even top insurers being subject to fines for reviewing their pensions mis-selling cases too slowly, a fine or reprimand may not necessarily mean a rogue trader. However, you do need to know why the firm was disciplined and what it has done to remedy matters.

What experience do you have?

Tougher regulatory requirements have seen off many of the cowboys, although some still remain. Generally experience still counts for much, not least because financial advice is still as much about human behaviour as it is technical product expertise. The perfect adviser has 20 years' experience, a professional qualification, a degree in psychology and a masters in mathematics, the bedside manner of a good GP, the morals of a saint and will outlive you.

Sound impossible? It probably is so look instead for a good balance of abilities and, above all, for someone you can trust. If it is someone you come to regard as a friend as well, you have probably found your perfect adviser.

Andy Couchman is publishing editor of HealthCare Insurance Report

Do yourself a favour: give the taxman less

Each year we give the Treasury £5bn more than we need to. Tony Lyons offers a guide to keeping more of your hard-earned cash

EVERYONE COMPLAINS about the amount they pay the tax man, whether it is on salaries and benefits or interest, dividends and capital gains. Yet many of us fail to take advantage of the tax allowances that can legitimately be claimed.

Are you running your financial affairs as efficiently as you can? Before you have to

employ the services of an accountant and a financial adviser, ensure that you are being as astute as possible in organising your tax affairs. Don't forget that husband and wife can elect to be taxed singly on their earnings, with both eligible for the single person's allowance. If the wife does not have any earnings, then the husband should claim

the married allowance.

If your wife or husband has minimal or no earnings, it is worthwhile putting some investments and deposits in their name. If they do not pay tax, they can have their investment income paid gross. In April next year, we will see the introduction of individual savings accounts, which will replace PEPs and TESSAs.

Before the end of the year, the Government should tell us more about its ideas for the future of pensions, especially what it means about "stakeholder pensions".

These innovations will continue the recent history of various Chancellors of the Exchequer introducing legislation to encourage us to invest as efficiently as possible.

something we fail to do. The Inland Revenue, for example, states that non-taxpayers fail to reclaim some £500m a year that they need not have paid, much of this on building society deposits.

A more recent survey by IFA Promotion, which puts people in touch with independent financial advisers, showed that as a nation we paid over £5.5bn

more in tax than we need to, equal to £158 a head. Much of this was due to our not taking advantage of the various tax saving plans that are available.

As we have become more sophisticated about investment, so the choice of tax efficient products has grown. Once, it was just National Savings. Then as the government of the day became concerned about

pensions, retirement products were encouraged. Then came encouragement to invest through business enterprise schemes, which were then followed by PEPs, just over 11 years ago, and TESSAs. So there is a wide range of tax efficient investments. This survey looks at some of the opportunities they offer for accumulating a nest egg.

Profits come to those who wait

Regardless of market volatility, PEPs are a good long-term investment. By Tony Lyons

THE volatile state of the stock market, with share prices fluctuating widely on a daily basis, has given the marketing departments of PEP management groups a worrying time. If the government keeps to its plan to replace them with Individual Savings Accounts, personal equity plans have a short shelf-life.

Today, the vast bulk of unit trust sales, in particular, are made with PEP wrappers. Yet the promised sales bonanza shows no signs of happening. On the one hand, investors appear to have adopted a wait-and-see attitude. With the 20-per-cent fall in the stock market over the past couple of months, they are obviously concerned at buying a PEP at the wrong time.

Meanwhile, they are also waiting to see just what the ISAs will look like. To date, we are still waiting for the government to unveil the fine print. Until it does, PEP managers cannot say what their ISA offerings will look like. While most will simply swap an ISA wrapper for their existing PEP wrappers, they will not always be able to set up their computer systems to cope with the changes - as it is they are also having to sort out their programs for dealing with the "millennium bug". Already a number of groups have said that they are unlikely to handle the cash or life assurance elements of an ISA.

PEPs have proven themselves to be one of the most popular tax-free investments since their introduction in 1987, attracting almost £80bn. Now, with just over six months to go, should you still buy them?

"Anyone thinking of making a long-term investment of five or more years should still consider PEPs," says Roddy Kohn of Kohn Cougar, a Bristol-based

independent financial adviser (IFA). "They still provide a worthwhile means of sheltering capital gains and dividend income free of all tax. However, you must look at the product - not just buy a PEP because of the tax wrapper. Be wary of falling for marketing hype and buying any old PEP. You must choose very carefully."

This is wise advice. Don't buy a PEP just because it is tax-free and the manager is offering a one or two per cent discount on initial charges. Buy because you want a long-term investment and a PEP is a handy way of doing this. Remember the familiar investment principles: make sure the fund you choose suits your aims, look at past performance which, though not a forecast of the future, will tell you how the fund has done. And also look at the consistency of this performance.

Try to pick one that is always near the top of its sector. Look at charges.

If you are considering a lump-sum investment, while timing is important, try not to worry too much about it. To Graham Bates, a Leeds-based

IFA, PEPs are for the long-term. "I purchased a PEP invested in Henderson's European growth fund in July when markets were at their peak. But I'm not too bothered with the recent falls, although I wished I had bought it now. I'm taking a 10-year view, expecting strong growth in mainland European shares," he says.

Although markets have risen over almost every five-year period since the Second World War, there are no guarantees that they will continue to do so. At present they are very unsettled.

"As no one knows when they will calm down, nor at what level, the cautious investor could consider one of the PEPs that offers capital protection, such as that from RSCB which will pay back all your original investment after five-and-a-half years if the markets have fallen," says Mr Kohn.

"If you are prepared to take a higher risk, you could consider that now is a reasonable buying opportunity. After all it was only three years ago that the FTSE 100 index was around the 3,035 and pundits were say-



Volatile markets and Government plans to bring in ISAs make the immediate future of PEPs uncertain

TEN PEP RULES

1. PEPs are only suitable for tax payers
2. A PEP is a tax wrapper for investing in shares
3. Only invest in a PEP because you believe equities will grow faster over the long-term than other savings
4. Do not invest just because of the tax advantages
5. You may only have one PEP manager this fiscal year
6. Up to £6,000 can be invested in a general PEP and £3,000 in a single-company PEP
7. A husband and wife each have their own individual PEP allowance so before the end of this tax year a couple can invest up to £12,000 in PEPs
8. Unless you are an experienced investor, use a PEP that invests in unit or investment trusts
9. A PEP is often cheaper than investing directly in a unit trust and you get all the income and growth tax-free
10. Look at past performance and charges as well as being sure that the PEP meets your investment aims

ing it was due for a fall. Well, we all know what has happened since then." If you have a PEP that you pay monthly or regular instalments into, continue doing so. By buying a PEP through regular savings, you are ironing out the ups and downs in the market.

If you need help or advice in selecting the right PEP, use an independent financial adviser. If you are happy making your own decision, rather than buy direct from the management group, why not use a discount broker? This way you will save on initial charges, maybe as much as £180 or more.

When you have bought, all you need do is keep your nerve. Sell only when you are ready to - rather than panic because the market is falling. Ignore daily share price movements and remember in five or 10 years, if past performance is any guide at all, you should be more than happy with your profit.

Tessas feel the pressure

Move quickly to open the last tax-free cash savings, says Abigail Montrose

SAVERS HAVE just six months left to take advantage of Tessas (tax-exempt special savings accounts) before they are phased out. Anyone who opens a Tessa before April will be able to invest the full amount and keep it to maturity.

The great attraction of Tessas is that all the interest earned on your savings is tax-free, providing you do not withdraw any of your original capital during the five-year life of the Tessa.

Because Tessa holders are prepared to tie up their savings for five years, providers usually offer better rates than on other savings accounts. The top Tessas are paying around 0.5 per cent to one per cent more than other top paying accounts.

Tessas are offered by most building societies and banks but because they offer such attractive tax-breaks, there are limits on how much you can have in them and who can have them. To open a Tessa you must be 18 or over and you are limited to one at a time. You can save up to £20,000. Up to £20,000

can be invested in a Tessa in year one, and £1,800 can be added each year. If you invest the maximum in years one to four, you can only invest £600 in year five.

Those who have already held a Tessa can invest up to £3,000 from their maturing Tessa into a follow-up Tessa, providing there is no more than six months between the first maturing and the follow-up account being opened. Follow-on Tessas tend to offer slightly better rates of interest.

Both fixed-rate and variable-rate Tessas are available. The advantage of a fixed-rate Tessa is that you know exactly how much interest you are going to earn over the five-year term. But providers will often not allow you to add to a fixed-rate account after your initial deposit, so you may want to invest the full £20,000, which will then be drip-fed into your account over the five-year term, subject to the rules. Fixed-rate Tessas are typically paying around 0.5 per cent.

At the moment, the vast ma-

jority of Tessas on offer are variable rate and are paying much better rates of interest than fixed-rate Tessas.

Christine Bayliss, the investment editor at *Moneyfacts*, the monthly guide to savings and mortgage rates, says this is because providers cannot afford to offer attractive rates on fixed-rate Tessas.

"There are very few fixed-rate Tessas about at the moment because the banks and building societies are unable to obtain good rates on the money markets for investments at present. This is because the markets expect interest rates to fall over the coming years," she says.

The top-paying variable-rate Tessas offer between 8 to 8.25 per cent interest. Often the best paying accounts will be offered by the lesser-known names, such as the small regional building societies, but you will need to check if these allow people outside their local area to open an account.

One of the best deals on offer is from Norwich & Peter-

borough, which is paying 8.25 per cent with a minimum opening balance of £100. Others paying eight per cent or more and only requiring a £100 or less include Yorkshire Building Society, Julian Hodge Bank and Midland Bank.

For those looking to move money into a follow-up variable-rate Tessa, one of the top rates is 8.5 per cent being paid by Barclays, but the required opening deposit is £9,000. Principality Building Society, Bradford & Bingley Building Society and Britannia Building Society are also offering good rates with a minimum balance of £3,000. Leeds & Holbeck will accept from £1 and Midland Bank from £100. Both are paying eight per cent or more.

Abbey National 0800-100801; Barclays Bank 0800-400100; Bradford & Bingley Building Society 0800-592588; Britannia Building Society 0800-132304; Leeds & Holbeck 0500-225777; Midland Bank 0800-180180; NatWest Bank 0800-505050; Sun Bank 01438 744505

HOW TO RECLAIM TAX

WHY DO so many non-taxpayers have deposit and investment accounts where interest is taxable and is usually deducted automatically? If you are a non-taxpayer, you may not be liable for this tax. But taxpayers can take action to avoid paying it.

Put money aside in a bank or building society deposit account, and the interest it earns will be taxed at 20 per cent. You can avoid this and receive the interest gross by filling in the tax exemption form R85 for each account you hold.

If you have paid tax on your savings in the last six years when you were not liable to it, you can claim this back by filling out form R40, from your local tax office.

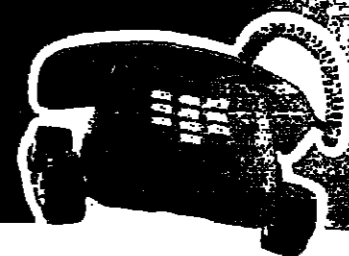
Bonds issued by insurance companies and investment houses are taxed differently. Investors may find the interest is automatically taxed at 20 per cent and is not reclaimable even if you are a non-taxpayer. This is the case with guaranteed-income and guaranteed-growth bonds.

Any dividends you earn from shareholdings or unit trusts have tax deducted at source. You then receive a dividend cheque and a tax credit voucher. Non-taxpayers should send this credit voucher to their local tax office for a refund of the tax that has been paid.

The Inland Revenue has produced A Guide For People With Savings, leaflet IR110, available from your tax office.

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Wake up to the pension time-bomb

Too few people are putting enough away for old age. The Government wants to change that. By Tony Lyons

Not enough of us are putting away sufficient money to provide for a comfortable old age. The value of the state pension is rapidly declining and by 2010, it is estimated that it will be worth less than one-fifth of average earnings.

The Government is so concerned about this, and about the fact that millions of us make no savings at all for retirement, that it is carrying out a review of pensions. It will be looking at ways to encourage us all to have a second pension, the so-called stakeholder pension, including ways of funding this for those who cannot work or are carers.

But even when further details of its thoughts are published, some time this autumn, we should save for retirement in the most tax efficient ways currently available.

Around 11 million employees are members of company pension schemes, where contributions are paid by both the employer and the individual. The best of these schemes pays out a pension equal to two-thirds of final salary after 40 years of service.

Few of us can expect to work that long for the same employer any more. But do not worry. The tax man allows us to make additional contributions to make up for any missing years, known as additional voluntary contributions (AVCs). Up to 15 per cent of salary can be invested in total in pension contributions, with tax relief given at your top rate of income tax.

If your company pension scheme does not offer a good AVC in-house, you can purchase free-standing schemes (FSAVCs) from insurance companies and other pension providers. The rules are the same

as for AVCs, but do watch out as the charges are often a lot higher. You may find that you could be better off using your money to invest in PEPs and Tassas while you can, or ISAs when they are introduced in April.

Those who work for employers without a company pension scheme or who are self-employed, have to make their own provisions. This is usually done by investing in a personal pension.

These give a pension based not on salary but on how well the un-

derlying investments perform. In fact, many companies are now switching from final salary schemes to similar money purchase or group pensions to cut costs. In these schemes your pension at retirement will be unknown and will depend on how well the pension provider has invested your savings.

PAY CODE	
Age on 6 April	Maximum % of earnings
Under 35	17.5
36-45	20
46-50	25
51-55	30
56-60	35
61-74	40

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All premiums paid into a personal pension attract tax relief at your top rate of tax. This means that if you pay the higher-rate tax of 40 per cent on your income, putting £5,000 a year into a personal pension will only cost £3,000 after tax relief.

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Pension planning will never be simple, but hopefully the Government will make it more straightforward. Peter McDiarmid

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*On the basis of market prices and yields as at 14.5.98 the manager envisages a gross distribution yield of 8.5% per annum and a gross redemption yield of 9.5% on the fund. These yields are annualised with gross income reinvested. Estimated yields will vary and are available on request at the number below. The M&G High Yield Corporate Bond Fund is managed by M&G Securities Limited (regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and M&G). M&G do not offer investment advice or make any recommendations about investments. We only promote the packaged products and services of the M&G marketing group. The tax benefits of PEPs can change and the value of the benefits depend on your individual circumstances. The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up, you may not get back as much as you invested. Issued by M&G Financial Services Limited (regulated by the Personal Investment Authority). M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1PB.

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From the NHS to the DSS, the public sector's record in IT is appalling. By Paul Gosling

Systematic failure



Britain's new air traffic control computer system is to cost £90m more than first costed. Will a public sector IT project ever go to plan?

David Rose

News broke last week that the cost of Britain's new air traffic control computer system being installed by Lockheed Martin has jumped from an original £130m to £217m – a 75 per cent increase in six years.

This would be bad enough on its own, but it follows continued speculation about supposed problems with two Department of Social Security IT contracts – the ICL Pathway electronic benefits system and the Andersen Consulting contract to computerise the Contributions Agency records system.

Meanwhile, Wandsworth council has sacked EDS from its housing benefits administration contract, and Kingston council is thinking of doing the same. Whatever the strengths of the public sector, it is becoming increasingly clear that it has an unparalleled record in fouling up on IT contracting. So just why are public bodies so bad with IT, and how can they correct a growing crisis?

Contractors, consultants, the National Audit Office and the Public Accounts Committee all have harsh words for the public sector's record on IT procurement. While there is a variety of reasons for the con-

tracting crisis, some key themes recur with frightening regularity. One factor – which has also been an important consideration in the row over accounting for private finance initiative deals – is that public bodies have been bad at analysing future risks and have failed to contract for which party should bear those risks as situations change. This reflects a level of naivety at even senior levels in the public sector, not just in dealing with IT, but also in how to draw up contract specifications when outsourcing services.

One recent report of the House of Commons' Public Accounts Committee (PAC) investigated the use of the Read codes by the NHS.

A system for barcoding clinical information was developed by Dr James Read, a GP who sold his copyright on the idea to the NHS, and was then employed by it to oversee the system's introduction.

The committee found an almost unbelievable level of weak management, which led to spiralling costs in the codes' implementation, now standing at £32m and rising fast. Astonishingly, the NHS Executive did not carry out an appraisal of costs, benefits and risks before giving approval to the project. The PAC

recommended that in future not only should sound investment appraisals be conducted, but that pilot schemes should be evaluated before implementation. It added that the NHS had made similar mistakes with hospital information systems.

Richard Jones, a partner in PricewaterhouseCoopers' management consulting services, says the problems with IT procurement in the public sector are complex, but often relate to a lack of understanding of IT at senior management level. "Often new ideas, especially in the new technology areas, have been generated bottom up, and senior people continue to want the old systems, and don't have a commitment to making the new systems work," he said.

IT skill levels in the public sector are worryingly weak. Whereas the chief executive of Nationwide is an IT specialist, it is difficult to point to anyone in the public services who has risen on a similar career path.

"The public sector promotes broadly based generalists," Mr Jones pointed out. Salary structures for IT personnel in the public sector are in a different world from business, especially with the pay inflation generated by year 2000 com-

pliance and euro preparation. Other problems can be caused by an excessive concentration on keeping costs down, often at the expense of an effective system. "One of the downsides of competitive tendering is that you often leave out all change management processes which would make the contracts work," said Mr Jones. "Procurement rules drive the supplier to keep the price tight, who then leaves out the nice bits. IT is of no use if the customer doesn't know how to use it."

And contract specifications can change as the client realises that a modification could make the system better, which introduces cost overruns and delays in specifications.

The good news is that, belatedly, the public sector might be learning. Mr Jones, who is in charge of implementing a major IT project in the Ministry of Defence, says that the contract he is currently working to has some good features.

"It includes incentivising us to make the client use the system. It is a very difficult test for us, but it makes us encourage the customer to switch the system on. There are regular reviews, not just a review on final delivery. There is a greater clar-

ity in the client's requirement."

Mike Roache, head of public sector at IT consultants and contractors Cap Gemini, agrees that public bodies are learning from their mistakes. "It is changing," said Mr Roache. "There is far more emphasis on long term, strategic partnerships, not just contracting for individual projects, but to provide whole solutions. It is very difficult to predict in a contract beyond two or three years, and the parties need to build up trust. Some of the contracts with problems now were placed some years ago."

Past mistakes will continue to cause problems, though, not least when the new millennium dawns. The Public Accounts Committee has concluded that the NHS is still disturbingly unready for 2000, and is putting patients' lives at risk.

Action 2000, the UK Government body responsible for raising awareness of the problem, has warned that local authorities are equally ill-prepared. Director Gwyneth Flower said: "I'm very unhappy indeed with local authorities. I ask them what they are doing about traffic lights or parking meters and they say 'nothing'. If traffic lights fail, people will not be able to get to work, and that will hit the economy."

Forced to take stock of my future



THE TRADER

IT HAS been a tense week in the trading room. We have not been able to surf the Net or open a newspaper for days without coming across some pundit predicting gloom, doom and despondency, but particularly doom.

As a result, the bank's share price has plunged by around 54 per cent, and it can only be a matter of time before we are picked off by some larger fish.

The directors have dealt with the whole drama by denying everything, but nobody falls for that kind of thing these days.

Nevertheless, over the past few days the big cheques have been denied lending too much money to dodgy Russian corporates, pooh-poohed the suggestion that they might have lost more on the Far East markets than they were letting on, and hotly objected to the mere idea that they might have to sack lots of their staff.

Not surprisingly, this has left us all in a state of misery from which we can only briefly rescue ourselves by taking our company credit cards out to lunch.

Laura and I have decided that as no one wants to trade with us we may as well eat, so we are tucking away the smoked salmon and Veau Cordon Rouge in one of the City's more elegant eateries – not a "Dr Johnson's Platter" in sight – and discussing the situation.

We both agree that it would be illogical, stupid but not entirely unlikely of the chief honchos to make up for massive losses on the lending side by sacking half the trading room.

After all, not one of them in the boardroom really understands what a derivative is, so if they have to retrench they will make sure the businesses they hang on to are the ones they feel comfortable with – an attitude that brought us to the position we're in the first place, of course.

On the other hand, there have been all those strongly worded statements about how the bank definitely has not lost a boatload on trading in the Far East that is somehow only now coming to light.

"I thought we'd escaped lightly on that front," I say to Laura.

"Apparently not," she replies.

We crawl reluctantly back to work, arriving just in time to hear the announcement.

The management has decided that we all need a pep talk to cheer us up, so there is to be a gathering on the trading floor in 10 minutes, followed by individual appointments so we can sort out any worries we may have.

The group meeting is the usual guff – "mustn't believe all the rumours... some small losses but nothing that can't be made up... a handful of voluntary redundancies at most... Carry on team, you're doing sterling work..."

We yawn our way through it, then Laura heads off for her chat. I twiddle my thumbs for

'This has left us in a state of misery from which we can only briefly rescue ourselves by taking our company credit cards out to lunch'

half an hour until it is my turn and then I am in a small meeting room on the ground floor near the front door.

Norman comes in looking solemn, and only then do the warning bells start going off in my head.

There are plenty of meeting rooms on the fifth floor; why am I not in one of those?

Why did Laura not come back after her 10-minute "pep talk"?

Why does Norman have a face like a turbot?

He sits down, fidgets a bit, then looks up and says, "I'm afraid we've come to the parting of the ways."

I feel as if I've just been punched in the stomach. I long to say something witty, but instead I feel myself starting to cry.

Oh, the shame of it! Norman uncomfortably hands me a crumpled handkerchief.

"Look," he says in a pained voice, "this is just upsetting for me as it is for you..."

IN BRIEF

NINETIES ACCOUNTANTS are shaking off their boring image by hanging up their pinstripes for trendier clothes and rating people skills above number crunching, according to research from the Co-operative Bank Business Direct.

Just a fifth of accountants under the age of 30 put "interest in numbers" as the most important reason for success, as opposed to half of their colleagues over 60, says the study.

THE INSTITUTE of Chartered Accountants claims to have broken new ground with the issue of guidance aimed at helping directors of listed companies to prepare pro forma financial information included in Stock Exchange prospectuses and circulars.

Robert Hodgkinson, chairman of the institute's financial reporting committee, says there is a need for such assistance because otherwise "investors will only try and do for themselves on the back of an envelope".

PRIVATE COMPANIES are being urged to respond to the spectre of recession by focusing on product development and market research.

Kingston Smith, the accountancy firm, says that

research by Bristol Business School carried out in the wake of the last downturn suggests that investing in new products and researching new potential markets could help a company stand out from its competitors.

DEFINITIVE ADVICE on such areas as "conversion", "rounding" and "triangulation" is carried in a new guide to the accounting implications of a European single currency. It is published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales.

THE FINANCIAL costs of the long-hours culture will be examined next month at a conference organised by the accountancy firm, Smith & Williamson.

The one-day event, to be held at London's Lansborough Hotel on 15 October, will bring together representatives of government, business and the professions to examine the financial realities of the work/life debate.

HAINES WATTS is seeking a boost to its aim of becoming the UK's leading accountancy firm in the field of advising owner-managed businesses by joining BKR International, one of the world's top 20 global

associations of accounting firms.

MIKE SUTTON, a former chief accountant at the US Securities and Exchange Commission, and John Coombe, the finance director at Glaxo Wellcome, will be among the speakers at a conference investigating whether harmonisation of international accounting standards is possible.

The event, being held at 1 Whitehall Place, London, tonight (23 September), is being sponsored by Deloitte & Touche and is supported by the International Accounting Standards Committee, which is holding in December its own conference on the development of standards.

THE WELL-ESTABLISHED academic tradition of teaching accountancy students by representing accounting years in the form of 19x1, 19x2 and so on is the latest area of life to be threatened by the Millennium Bug, according to Philip Cahill, a lecturer at Portsmouth University.

However, he points out that his textbook Elements of Accounting is one of the first to adopt a date convention based on the 21st century and is therefore fully 2000-compliant.

ROGER TRAPP

Tearing down the walls

The recent high court victory by Prince Jefri of Brunei will lead to changes in the way accountancy firms 'ring-fence' their departments. By Roger Trapp

ON THE face of it, Prince Jefri looks an unlikely threat to the world's largest accounting firms. Sure, he is the younger brother of the Sultan of Brunei, but the view in the City and elsewhere was that he had fallen out with his brother so badly that he counted for little.

But that was before last week's High Court judgment, which sees the prince besting the mighty accounting firm KPMG. In finding for him, Mr Justice Pumfrey has not only embarrassed the firm by suggesting that it faced a conflict of interest "between a former client and an accountant's interest in getting more work".

He has also blown open the whole notion of the "Chinese walls" by which for the past decade or so accountants and the increasingly widely spread investment banks have been able to act for clients where there are clear conflicts of interest. The theory is that teams operating in different parts of the same firm are ring-fenced and so do not know what the others are doing.

Not surprisingly, the concept has been widely ridiculed outside the circles of those attempting to use it to justify their working practices.

Several years ago, another leading international firm – Coopers & Lybrand, now part of PricewaterhouseCoopers – found itself in hot water over the same issue.

Two of its brightest insolvency



Prince Jefri took KPMG to court and won

stars were disciplined by their professional body after it was discovered that they took on sorting out the affairs of the collapsed Polly Peck empire even though the firm had given tax advice to Asil Nadir.

And at a time when these very same organisations are starting to make great play out of the extent to which they can share knowledge among themselves, the idea appears even more untenable.

It is perhaps notable that City solicitors tend – as Allen & Overy did in this case – to take a stricter view of conflicts of interest. But maybe it is easier for them in that, while the legal profession is facing the same sort of polarisation as ac-

countancy, its results are not stark as they are in accounting.

International clients operating in London may all wish to take on Allen & Overy and its counterparts in the top five, but they still have the opportunity to choose from any number of firms just below that bracket as well as the growing numbers of US firms in London.

In accountancy on the other hand, the completion of the deal that saw the creation of PricewaterhouseCoopers has led to a huge gap between the top five and the others. Add to that the growing belief that only these firms now have the capability to do the really large international jobs and it is easy to see why Howard Davies and his colleagues at the Financial Services Authority were sufficiently worried by this consolidation to speak out.

They could foresee a situation where they would find it hard to appoint an accountancy firm to look into a banking or corporate collapse like those in the late Eighties because all the preferred candidates would have some connection with the problem organisation.

The Prince Jefri case is an indication that – even though the regulators have waved through the deals that have seen the Big Eight become the Big Five – those they claim to serve are unimpressed.

KPMG could, of course, win this case on the appeal that is to be

heard shortly. But, in a sense, the die has been cast. The big firms are being scrutinised in every aspect of their activities. And with the Department of Trade and Industry also last week announcing that it has decided not to meddle with the law on joint and several liability, partners in these organisations are not going to be too relaxed.

After all, the Government's decision to allow them to become limited liability partnerships offers only partial relief from the potentially ruinous claims that will surely follow if the current economic uncertainty turns into a recession.

Not that there are no happy accountants out there. When second-tier practice Stoy Hayward managing partner Adrian Martin announced strong increases in fees and profits, he pointed out that the firm was getting calls from growing businesses that were becoming disillusioned with being advised by large firms, while Kidsons Impey – itself in the throes of a merger – says it is getting calls from bankers and others who are attracted by the fact that it is not likely to be "conflicted out" of any big transactions.

With the turbulence in emerging markets bound to be having an effect, it is possible that those in the firms bent on world domination are feeling that consolidation no longer looks as obvious a solution as it did.

Women in accountancy

How Women Fare Against Men in Career Opportunities



Invitation to a free Business Breakfast

8th October
The Derek Randall Suite, Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club, Trent Bridge, Nottingham,
7.30 - 9.00 am

14th October
Marcellos Ristorante, 402-404 Midsummer Plaza, Midsummer Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes MK9,
8.15 - 9.30 am

22nd October
Ramada Hotel, Blackfriars Street, Manchester M3 2EQ,
7.45 - 9.30 am

23rd October
Leeds United FC, Elland Road, Leeds, West Yorks LS11,
8.00 - 9.30 am

4th November
The Molineux Conference & Banqueting Centre, Molineux Stadium, Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton,
8.00 - 9.30 am

5th November
Botanical Gardens, Terrace Suite, Westbourne Road, Edgbaston B15 3TR,
7.45 - 9.30 am

11th November
The Savoy, The Strand, London WC2R,
8.15 - 9.30 am

Robert Half International, in conjunction with The Independent, are pleased to invite you to this free Business Breakfast briefing.

As women make up an increasing proportion of new entrants to the accountancy profession, just how much career satisfaction are they likely to achieve? Is it the case that there are still more opportunities for men to succeed than women and do women still believe they have restricted career opportunities?

These are some of the issues dealt with in one of the most comprehensive career surveys produced. "Accountants with Attitude" is a national survey of the career attitudes of female and male accountants in early and mid career. It was commissioned by the Women in Accountancy group whose President, Anne Jenkins, will be the speaker at this Robert Half Business Breakfast. Anne will present the results of the survey. She will identify similarities and differences in the career experiences of women and men and will examine the key Human Resources challenges facing the profession.

Her talk will encompass the following points:

- job and career satisfaction
- demand for part-time working
- part-time working consequences
- whose career is more important?
- important features of work
- unequal career opportunities
- catering for diversity.

Anne Jenkins is a Chartered Accountant, formerly with PricewaterhouseCoopers (KPMG) and a professional trainer. She is a Director of ATC (Professional Training) and has been an accountancy trainer for 10 years responsible for developing career development workshops for women. She is also currently involved in presenting courses on International Accounting Standards and Accounting for the Euro.

How to book your place: Places at these breakfasts are strictly limited. To book your place, please call the appropriate Robert Half contact as follows:

Nottingham - Beth Tolley - Tel: 0115 950 8811.
Milton Keynes - Peta Laverack - Tel: 01908 201420.
Manchester - Liz Zambelli - Tel: 0161 277 7700.
Leeds - Karen Clayton - Tel: 0113 242 8978.
Wolverhampton - Lorraine Jones - Tel: 01902 425850.
Birmingham - Kulvinder Bury - Tel: 0121 616 4600.
London - Natasha Sheehy - Tel: 0171 395 9600.

THE
INDEPENDENT

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Ever Considered Working In the Public Sector?

Accountancy Additions is running an Open Day on 1st October at their Southwark Street branch. It is open to all accounting clerical and part qualified/qualified accountancy staff. If you would like to find out your career prospects within the public sector, call us today to make an appointment.

Senior Finance Manager £25,000
Small housing association requires a Senior Finance Manager to direct and control all aspects of the finance function. With flair for strategic financial management, you will be able to demonstrate the ability to drive the organisation forward as it continues to grow. Ref: 261917

Assistant Management Accountant £21,000
Central London museum needs an experienced Assistant Management Accountant to assist in the production of monthly finance reports. Applicants will have passed CIMA Stage 1 as a minimum and will be seeking to continue their studies. A general interest in the arts would be beneficial. Ref: 86800

Financial/Capital Accounts Manager £20,000
NHS Trust seeks a Financial/Capital Accounts Manager to assist in the day-to-day management of staff within its busy finance section. Suitable candidates will possess a high degree of financial experience to assist in the preparation of statutory accounts. Good IT literacy would be an advantage. Ref: 261687

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You should have experience of local authority and school financial procedures, experience of using information technology and operating a range of computerised financial systems.

This is a challenging appointment and you should be able to organise and prioritise your own work within a busy working environment. A CIPFA part qualified/qualified technician qualification or equivalent experience will be expected. You should also have a high level of communication skills and the ability to supervise staff.

For further information and an application form please telephone or write to Esada Doyley, Assessment Manager, Directorate of Education, Special Educational Needs Section, Riverside House, High Street, Woolwich, London SE18 6DF. Telephone: 0181 309 8127. Closing date 2 October 1998.

Alternatively, email us at ges-jobs@greenwich.gov.uk clearly indicating the appointment of interest, and the address to which the application pack should be sent.

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<http://www.dera.gov.uk>



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City Parochial Foundation FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION EXECUTIVE (ACCOUNTANT)

£35,241 to £44,611 plus non-contributory pension
Base: London

The Foundation is a grant-giving body established in 1891 to benefit the poor of London. The gross annual income is in excess of £10 million derived from an asset base in excess of £150 million. The Foundation employs 14 staff.

This is an interesting and challenging senior management post for a qualified Chartered Accountant looking for a job with variety, ranging from managing a substantial portfolio to hands-on work with voluntary organisations.

You will require at least two years' post qualification experience and a good understanding of charity accountancy. You will be used to managing all aspects of a small finance department. In addition you must have experience of basic treasury management and of working with Investment Managers. A thorough and methodical approach will be necessary when working to deadlines, as will good communication and interpersonal skills, in order to provide sound financial information to the Trustees, the Clerk and other senior officers.

Reporting to the Clerk, you will be responsible for payroll, day-to-day financial control, monitoring budgets and for producing management accounts and financial reports. You will be Company Secretary to the Foundation's subsidiaries.

The Accountant will also be responsible for the general building and office management, personnel administration, health and safety and management of information technology. Experience in these aspects of the job are desirable.

For further information and an application form, write to The Clerk to the Trustees, City Parochial Foundation, 6 Middle Street, London EC1A 7PH. No telephone enquiries please. Closing date: 5.00pm Monday, 12 October 1998. Interviews will take place on Tuesday, 20 October 1998 at the Foundation's offices.

The City Parochial Foundation is an equal opportunities employer.

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Swale Housing Association manages over 10,000 homes and has an income budget of over twenty million pounds.

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Sally Wheeler on

01795 431134 for

a job pack. Closing date for applications is 16 October. Interviews will be held during the week starting 26 October.

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Swale Housing Association, 60 Bell Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4HE Tel: 01795 431134

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The Headmaster, St John's Beaumont, Old Windsor, Berkshire SL4 2JN

CVs must arrive no later than Friday 2nd October and interviews will take place on Wednesday 14th October 1998.

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- To play a key role, as part of a devolved team, in the Management of the City Council's Corporate Finance

If you are a qualified CCAB Accountant with extensive experience of corporate finance in a major local authority or equivalent organisation, then we'd like to hear from you.

Informal enquiries may be made to Eamonn Boylan, Executive Director, Housing and Direct Services, telephone (0114) 273 5167.

APPLICATIONS FORMS AND FURTHER DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE FROM SHEFFIELD DIRECT SERVICES, PERSONNEL SECTION, MANOR LANE, SHEFFIELD, S2 1TR. ALTERNATIVELY TELEPHONE (0114) 273 5955 (24 HOURS).

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You will be preferably CCAB qualified with two years' post qualification experience but must be able to communicate clearly to members, senior and non-financial managers, have the ability to interpret complex financial information and have five to ten years of working in a financial environment. You must also have the ability to train non-financial managers.

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North British Housing Association



Accountant

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Application packs available from: Human Resources Department, North British Housing Association, on our hotline: Tel: 01772 897225 (24 hours). Fax: 01772 562694. Please quote reference number: CF2 224/98. Closing date: 2 October 1998.

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Closing date: 12 October 1998

Application forms and job descriptions available from

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The Independent will be supplying a special MBA supplement at the Fair and in the paper on Thursday the 22nd of October.

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Life in the dog house

I WORK FOR

SARAH RUFF WORKS FOR LT-COL DUNCAN GREEN, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF BATTERSEA DOGS' HOME

I worked as a secretary for the NHS for over 10 years but I always felt something was missing. I love helping people, but all the bureaucracy and red tape prevented real job satisfaction. With a name like mine I guess I was fated to end up at the dogs' home. I saw the ad in the paper and sent my CV the same day. I knew that the competition would be fierce so I researched the job thoroughly.

I was very nervous before the interview, expecting Col Green to bark questions at me in a military manner, but actually he had a friendly face and was very relaxed. His two springer spaniels sat in on the interview and the office cat purred beside me whilst I did my typing test, which immediately made me feel at home. Then the Colonel gave me a questionnaire containing questions like "do you prefer dogs or cats?" and "what aspect of secretarial work do you most hate?" and I left the interview knowing that I had never wanted anything as much as this job.

I've been here now for two years in a far from normal secretarial role. My first job of the day is to feed the three office cats, Tiger, Poppy and TC, who is so grossly overweight that slimming her down is one of my duties. After clearing the litter trays I attend to the mail, most of which comes from owners telling us how their re-homed cat or dog is getting on. Co-ordinating Lt-Col Green's schedule takes up a lot of time because the work in the animal welfare world is never ending.

Another aspect to my job involves helping out at shows, and this year I



Sara Ruff, boss Lt-Col Green and office pets

Peter McDiarmid

manned the annual re-homed dogs' reunion at Battersea Park for over 1,500 dogs. I also accompany Col Green to talks at schools and institutes and occasionally take visitors around the kennels, including schoolchildren and representatives from animal shelters in other countries. We also have a BBC team on site at the moment making 30 programmes about the dogs' home,

but so far I have escaped being filmed. At the moment there are 700 dogs, 121 cats and 100 staff here. We have a no-destruction policy so all the animals are eventually re-homed. For example, when the TV programme *Pet Rescue* recently featured Desmond, a Rottweiler cross who had lost his confidence and needed a happy home, he was immediately snapped up. All kinds of people

bring dogs and cats in for re-homing, including animals made homeless as the result of a marital break-up. I have even found two cats and a rabbit left outside our front door and I have seen some really sad cases of neglect over the years. But I have also seen many people in tears as they were reunited with a dog or cat they thought was lost forever.

I love looking out from my window and watching happy owners walking away with their new dog. A lot of famous people come to Battersea looking for a dog or cat, for example Kevin Spacey recently got a dog from us, and Chris Evans and Bob Geldof took cats home.

The staff are very positive and although we can all get soppy about the animals we do not get over-emotional. We are allowed to bring our own dogs to work and in our office alone we have eight dogs and three cats. I can't eat my lunch in the office because I am immediately surrounded by eager faces and I don't wear a suit because it would be covered in fur and hair in no time.

If a dog gets depressed a member of staff will take it under his or her wing, and I always walk one of the dogs in the park at lunchtime. This is like a second home to me. I put in a lot of hours and have even worked over Christmas. I used to be slightly frightened of dogs, but I soon realised that once they know your smell they usually become your friend for life.

I can easily see myself here for the next 20 years and I know how lucky I am to have my dream job.

INTERVIEW BY KATIE SAMPSON

Oh, to be teetotal

I HAVE one of those Sundays where you go out to lunch at midday and come home at 2am after 14 hours' solid drinking and nothing to eat apart from the ossified heel of a loaf of bread and cheese off which you've had to cut the moonly bits. And as Monday means new job day for temps, I'm in trouble.

Tam: I obviously didn't scrape the mould off that cheese too well, as it is now coating the roof of my mouth. Then realise that my body has been pinned down in the night by Lilliputians, and I am unable to move. Drift back into partial coma.

Sam: eyes spring open, feet hit floor. One of those sour headaches, like someone running their fingernails down a blackboard, grips the back of my skull, while someone thumps between my eyes with a rubber hammer. Run bath, consider coffee, realise I've got 45 minutes to get across town. Consider ditching bath but alcohol seeps out through your pores, or so my mother told me. If I'm not going to go into a new workplace smelling of meths, bath it has to be. Besides, the only way to get the black stuff from under my fingernails is to wash my hair.

8.30: No tights. There are five pairs, actually, but



THE TEMP

each has a large hole in the left calf from the square metal dustbin under the desk at my last place of work. Pull on suit and rip button off shirt. Oh-god-oh-god.

8.40: Run to Tube. Paranoia convinces me that someone is following me and ducking behind hedges when I look back. There is a high-pitched whine in my ears. Long for a sausage sandwich, but turning up to a new job and eating breakfast is black mark central.

8.50: Newsagent has run out of tights. Down into Tube, swipe on foundation on the platform. Strap-hang to Bank, then get a seat by elbowing an old lady out of the way. Blusher, mascara, eyeshadow. Draw a pair of lips on the cupid's bow exaggerated to drag queen proportions by the lurching of the carriage.

9.10: Shop in station has only American tan tights. Almost cry, then buy them

anyway. Run down Moorgate, catch heel in grating, tear chunk out of knee.

9.15: arrive. Announce myself to kindly-looking matron. "You're late," she snarls. "I'm sorry," I say, "I had an accident." Point to my knee, which is black and crusty with red bits. "My God," she says.

"Haven't you got any tights?" I brandish my American tans and she says "Well, they're not going to cover it." "I'm sorry," I say. "I'll show you the switchboard," she says in that "and call the agency" voice.

As she brushes past me, she sniffs and looks suspicious. Leads me into a windowless room where a digital switchboard and a pair of headphones await. "You know how it works?" "Yes. Is the database up-to-date?" "Of course," she snarls. She turns her head away, then throws me a look of disgusted comprehension. Now I know she's going to call the agency. All I can think of is the extra thuprofen in my handbag. The phone goes.

She stands and watches as I take my seat, strap on the headphones, hit return and say in my sweetest voice, "Good morning, Alcohol Information Group. How can I help you?"

TEL: 0171 293 2222

APPOINTMENTS: SECRETARIAL, OFFICE SUPPORT

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This position would suit a person who enjoys meeting and working with young people, is able to work effectively as part of a team, has good secretarial ability and knowledge of MS applications and is willing to acquire additional WP and database skills (for which training courses are available).

Grade 3 £13,233 - £14,981 (inc. London Weighting) according to age and experience.

Please apply with CV and covering letter to Professor M Hoare, Head of Department, Department of Chemical Engineering, University College London, Torrington Place, London WC1E 7JE by Friday 9 October 1998.

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For full details please call Ruth at The Payroll Partnership on 0181 970 2150, or fax your CV immediately to 0181 900 9446

Richmond based InT Investment Company seeks 2 sales people with fluent German or Spanish with at least 3 years sales experience and proven track record - £30k. Also require Top Bi-lingual PA with excellent secretarial skills and fluent German or Spanish to work alongside the MD. Assisting in a variety of areas based organisational skills are a pre-requisite - £20k. La Vie & Paris URGENT! International Corporate seeks Top Tri-lingual PA with at least 3 years experience as a PA to top management to relocate to Paris. Must have fluent English and French and a good level of Spanish. Educated to degree level, with excellent administrative skills, you will be organised and a logical thinker. Salary AAE.

Call ROISIN FARRELL 0181 810 7839 Fax 0181 998 0388

TELESALES/ASSISTANT

New lighting manufacturing company, with considerable growth potential seeks young enthusiastic tele-sales/assistant with good communication skills to work in its head-office in Wembley, P.C. training will be provided. SAAE. Please send your cv to Mr A Hall, Platino Electrical, Wembley Park, 1 Harrow Road, Stonebridge Park, Middlesex HA9 6DE

PA/OFFICE MANAGER

Sought by leading property management firm based in London W4W. Ideally of graduate calibre with strong organisational skills, confident should be computer literate and with a flair for customer service. Top salary paid to right person. Fax CV to: MD, PARKGATE-ASPEN 0181 201 7991

SCHOOL SECRETARY

£17k inc. bonus for busy full-time nursery school in Putney SW15. Good telephone manner and communication skills are essential. Also Windows 95 and Excel experience required. Please telephone 0181 785 4081

Secretary

To work for property management team 50-60 wpm, excellent W4W, basic Excel, well presented, suit second jobber. CVs inc. salary expected to: Houston Lawrence Marlborough House, Tower Street London WC2H 9LN

JUNIOR ADMIN ASSISTANT For Television Production

£13,500 p.a. 2 month contract for cheerful 1st or 2nd jobber. Must have accurate 45 wpm typing and experience of Word for Windows. Attention to detail is essential together with a confident telephone manner. Please apply in writing to: Liane Gillett, Peelwood Fiction Limited, Goldhawk House, 49 Goldhawk Road, London W12 8QP. Closing date 29 September

SECRETARY £12-14K Inlington Estate Agent has vacancy for well-qualified and motivated person. Versatile and able to work under pressure. Must be experienced. Tel: 0171 294 5713 after 2.30pm or fax CV 0171 589 0888

RECEPTIONIST/PA for busy agency, must be good team player, well motivated, able to work under pressure, good telephone manner, computer literate. Tel: Lesley Asley: 0181 866 7009 prior to sending cv to: Promotional Support Ltd, 27a Chancery Lane, London EC2A 4LL

RECREATION CHARITY STAFF SECRETARIES (Ref CP98)

£16,000 aac Two component, capable secretaries are required by major national recreation charity. The posts require high level IT skills on Word, Access, Excel etc. Full range of office management skills required along with professional approach to work, confidence and ability to use initiative. High level English communication essential. Please send a CV showing current remuneration and quoting reference to Mrs Lesley Stippie, National Playing Fields Association, 25 Orington Square, London SW3 1LQ. Tel: 0171 584 6455 Fax 0171 581 3472 Email: lesley.stippie@npfa.co.uk Website: www.npfa.co.uk National Playing Fields Association, 25 Orington Square, London SW3 1LQ Reg Co No 306070 working for play, sport and recreation

OFFICE JUNIOR £10 - £12K Confident, well presented organised person to carry out general office duties for small firm of property developers in prestigious Belgrave. Good telephone manner essential. Duties will include meeting and greeting visitors, copy typing (45 wpm) and word processing so knowledge of W4W 3.2, WordPerfect 5.1 and Microsoft Word 7.0 needed. Immediate start Fax CV and covering letter to: A. Looles on: 0171 235 9466 or Tel: 0171 259 5225 for address. No agency or media calls please.

ISLINGTON BASED BUSY SPECIALIST FAMILY LAW SOLICITORS Require a Fulltime Secretary Legal experience and familiarity with wordperfect essential. Salary negotiable according to experience. Please send your CV and covering letter to: Margaret Kelly, Aiken Kelly Associates, 144 Liverpool Road, London N1 1LA Tel: 0171 700 6006

OFFICE ADMIN

For busy London Estate Agents. Basic typing skills and some experience essential. Call Marc Medina 0171 221 9044

HAMPSTEAD SECRETARIAL

PERMANENT Wide range of opportunities for skilled / experienced PAs, Secretaries & Administrators

TEMPS Great rates if you have excellent IT skills and 50+ wpm

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CONTRACTS/SALES SECRETARY

Immediate start salary £15,000 Small company in Wimbledon Village requires a smart and friendly full time secretary to work in their busy office. You must have W4W 97, (50wpm), Excel, Access 97 and experience of working in an engineering, contractual or architectural environment producing production schedules, words orders, WIP sheets etc. Duties include using a busy switchboard and general admin work. You must be able to work under pressure and be able to start immediately.

Please send your CV to: Ms Diane Lockwood, Oldham Lighting Ltd, 4 Rowan Court, 56 High Street, Wimbledon Village, London SW19 5EE No Agencies

LEGAL SECRETARY/PA Personal Injury

Liverpool Street based firm require a Legal Secretary to work within the Personal Injury Department supporting a Senior Assistant Solicitor. Duties will include typing of general correspondence, documents, attendance notes, completion of relevant Legal Aid forms, memos, dealing with routine telephone enquiries and filing. Applicants should be cheerful, flexible, hardworking, versatile and have excellent telephone & communication skills. In addition you will need to have a mature attitude, be organised, self-managing and have the ability to efficiently prioritise an extremely heavy caseload.

A minimum of 2 1/2 years' experience and knowledge of Legal Aid work & the Legal Aid Franchise would be an advantage. Wpm 65+

LEGAL SECRETARY Property

A vacancy has also arisen in our Commercial Property Department for a Legal Secretary who's primary responsibility will be to support a Senior Assistant Solicitor. Duties will include: typing of general correspondence, documents, attendance notes, completion of relevant forms, memos, dealing with routine telephone enquiries and filing.

You will need to be cheerful, flexible, hardworking, versatile and have excellent telephone & communication skills. In addition you will need to have a mature attitude, be organised, self-managing and have the ability to prioritise a heavy workload efficiently.

A minimum of 2 1/2 years' property experience essential. Wpm 70+ Good benefits package on offer and currently using MS Word 6. Please apply in writing with CV and current salary details to: Personnel Department, Pritchard Engineering, 14 New Street, London, EC2M 4HE Email: po@pritchardengineering.co.uk (STRICTLY NO AGENCIES OR MEDIA)

OFFICE JUNIOR

£10 - £12K

Confident, well presented organised person to carry out general office duties for small firm of property developers in prestigious Belgrave. Good telephone manner essential. Duties will include meeting and greeting visitors, copy typing (45 wpm) and word processing so knowledge of W4W 3.2, WordPerfect 5.1 and Microsoft Word 7.0 needed. Immediate start Fax CV and covering letter to: A. Looles on: 0171 235 9466 or Tel: 0171 259 5225 for address. No agency or media calls please.

ISLINGTON BASED BUSY SPECIALIST FAMILY LAW SOLICITORS

Require a Fulltime Secretary Legal experience and familiarity with wordperfect essential. Salary negotiable according to experience. Please send your CV and covering letter to: Margaret Kelly, Aiken Kelly Associates, 144 Liverpool Road, London N1 1LA Tel: 0171 700 6006

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

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Windeyer Institute of Medical Sciences

Administrative Secretary

Are you extremely well-organised? Do you learn quickly? Can you juggle many different tasks and view deadlines positively? Do you have good word-processing, database and spreadsheet skills? We are looking for someone interested in acting as a helpful front-line contact for staff and graduate students and providing sound support to the Institute Administrator within this new medical research institute. In return, we offer a salary package on the CRA6 scale of £17,448 - £19,868, inclusive of London Allowance, plus pension benefits and the opportunity of making a valuable contribution to the development of staff and student activities within the Institute.

Please apply by CV with names of two referees to: Jan Sablitzky, Administrator, Windeyer Institute of Medical Sciences, UCL, 46 Cleveland Street, London W1P 6DB. Tel: 0171 504 9343. Fax: 0171 387 3310. Email: j.sablitzky@ucl.ac.uk Closing date: 5 October 1998. Working towards Equal Opportunities

LEADING FIRM OF MEDIA LAWYERS THE SIMKINS PARTNERSHIP

seek RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONIST (front of house)

including corporate hospitality duties. Excellent salary, contractual bonus and benefits. Previous relevant experience essential.

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A dynamic Graphic Design company based in Marplebone require a RECEPTIONIST

Excellent telephone manner essential. Used to working in a team member in a pressured environment. Hours 9am-4pm Salary £11,000 Tel: 0171 224 5087

OFFICE JUNIOR

IT Recruitment, City. Suit College leaver or 2nd jobber. Are you: Accurate & methodical? Computer-friendly? With basic office skills. Admin/Word/Photos? We're friendly and hardworking. If you are, call Amanda Jones at Search IT on 0171 374 0740

JUNIOR LEGAL SECRETARY

Sought by solicitors in Old Street, EC1 for litigation dept. Experience preferred as is knowledge of WordPerfect 6.0. Salary £12,000-£14,000 depending on age and experience. Call Anne on 0171 251 4842

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£12-14K Required for busy catering company in SW4. Experience Essential. Contact Gordon on: 0171 498 2162

TYPIST REQUIRED

by property company in N4 area. Windows 95 experience essential. Minimum 55 wpm, age 25-30, non-smoker. Telephone: 0171 272 6282

BOOK-KEEPER

needed for busy full-time nursery school to help organise book-keeping to trial balance. Duties must also include staff wages. Knowledge of Excel required. £15,000-£17,000 depending on age and experience. Please telephone: 0181 785 4081

LEGAL ASSISTANT

Required to assist Solicitor in a small Property Law firm in London SE1. Word processing skills (Windows) essential. Must be able to handle a heavy workload. Salary between £12,000 - £14,000. Please call Elizabeth on 0171 735 9017/4788

SECRETARY

£16,500 to start Estate Agents close to Gloucester Road Tube Station require an experienced secretary with lots of initiative. Tel: 0171 581 0154

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required for busy West London Solicitors. Legal experience preferred but not essential. Good knowledge of MS Word plus 70wpm. Good salary for right applicant. Apply to: Angela Ogunjimi, Clure & Co. Tel: 0171 381 5321 Fax: 0171 386 0134

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RECEPTIONIST/PA

for busy agency, must be good team player, well motivated, able to work under pressure, good telephone manner, computer literate. Tel: Lesley Asley: 0181 866 7009 prior to sending cv to: Promotional Support Ltd, 27a Chancery Lane, London EC2A 4LL

To advertise in this section please call

Zara White on 0171 323 4465 or Valentine Quin on 0171 323 4491.

WEDNESDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

THIS EVENING Radio 3 marks a watershed in Britain's cultural life, transmitting the last concert by Simon Rattle (right) as musical director of the CBSO. Performance (7.30pm R3) consists of a piece by Thomas Adès, *Asyla*, and Mahler's *Resurrection Symphony*. The other main musical event is the Night of the Big Hats: the Country Music Association

Awards (11am R2), live from Nashville. Night Waves (10.45pm R3) includes a discussion of brevity in fiction. Obviously, that isn't enough to fill the whole programme, though, so there will also be an interview with Turner-shortlisted Chris O'Neill, whose use of elephant dung in his work seems like an unnecessary gift to haters of modern art.



ROBERT HANKS

RADIO 1
(97.6-99.8MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Moyles. 9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Jo Whiley. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Dave Pearce. 6.30 Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session. 8.30 Movie Updates with Mark Kermode. 8.40 John Peel. 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs. 11.00 The Breezeblock. 2.00 Emma B. 4.00 - 6.30 Clive Warren.

RADIO 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 John Dunn. 7.00 Nick Barraclough. 8.00 Mike Harding. 9.00 Gloria Estefan's Sounds of Miami. 10.00 Top of the Pops 2 on 2. 10.30 Richard Ainsworth. 12.05 Steve Madden. 1.00 32nd Annual Country Music Association Awards. See *Pick of the Day*. 4.00 - 6.00 Alex Lester.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks. 10.30 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Constant Lambert. 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. 2.00 The BBC Orchestras. 4.00 Choral Evensong. 5.00 In Tune. 7.30 Performance on 3. Chris de Souza introduces Simon Rattle's last concert in his role as musical director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. The concert was given last month in Symphony Hall, Birmingham. Hillevi Martinpelto (soprano), Anne Sofie von Otter (mezzo), City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus, Youth Chorus and Orchestra/Simon Rattle. Thomas Adès: *Asyla*. Mahler: *Symphony No 2 (Resurrection)*. See *Pick of the Day*.

9.40 Postscript. Tibor Fischer introduces five of the world's leading writers who are, as yet, little known to British audiences. 3. Ludmilla Ulitskaya: *Sonechka Bronnika*, Daughter of Bokhara. Ludmilla Ulitskaya - twice shortlisted for the Russian equivalent of the Booker Prize - is a leading light in the new generation of Russian feminist

writers. Her latest novel is a tender exploration of womanhood and a celebration of the possible in the face of the impossible. 10.00 Ensemble. Mozart wrote a quintet to show off the skills of a blind glass-harmonica virtuoso; Ravel composed a septet for harp, flute, clarinet and string quartet as harp manufacturers vied for supremacy. Penny Gore introduces a selection of works for unusual ensembles, including those works by Mozart and Ravel, Nielsen's 'Serenade inano' and excerpts from septets by Saint-Saëns, Beethoven and Stravinsky. 10.45 Night Waves. Does size matter when it comes to literary fiction? As American writers still strive to produce the epic novel, British fiction seems to be shrinking. Laura Cumming explores the culture of brevity and discusses new writing from Martin Amis, Jeff Noon and others. And she talks to painter Chris O'Neill - recently shortlisted for the Turner Prize - whose eclectic use of popular imagery, abstraction, paint and varnished elephant dung makes him one of the most innovative young artists working in Britain today. See *Pick of the Day*. 11.30 Jazz Notes. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Mendelssohn. (R) 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

10.00 NEWS: Women's Hour.
11.00 NEWS: Crimscapes. (R)
11.30 Up to the Garden Path.
12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.
1.00 The World at One.
1.30 Inspiration. (R)
2.00 NEWS: The Archers.
2.15 Afternoon Play: *The Charm Factory*.
3.00 NEWS: Gardeners' Question Time.
3.30 Faith on the Front Line.
3.45 Tales We Tell.
4.00 NEWS: All in the Mind.
4.30 Thinking Allowed.
5.00 PM.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.30 Frank Muir - a Kenilworth Remembered. (R)
7.00 NEWS: The Archers.
7.15 Front Row. Mark Lawson reports on a new, and very short - book by Annie Proulx, bestselling author of 'The Shipping News'.
7.45 The Jury. By Matthew Sober. A high-profile public figure is fighting a libel case to preserve her reputation. As proceedings get under way, it becomes clear to the members of the jury that the trial will have an impact on their own lives. With Suzanne Bertish, Patrick Robinson and Kelly Hunter. Director Andy Jordan (R/25).
8.00 NEWS: The Moral Maze. Michael Burk chairs an investigation of the moral questions behind the week's news. Witnesses face cross-examination from Janet Daley, Ian Hargreaves, David Starkey and David Cook.
8.45 Divided We Stand. The second instalment of Robert Robinson's four-part idiosyncratic

history of the century.
9.00 NEWS: Isambard's Bastards. John Waite investigates the new successes in the British engineering industry.
9.30 Midweek. Lively conversation with Libby Purves and guests.
10.00 The World Tonight. With Robin Lustig.
10.45 Back at Bedtime: Enduring Love. By Ian McEwan, abridged in ten parts by Penny Leicester, read by David Horowitz. A searing tale of love and obsession, set in contemporary London (R/10).
11.00 Hearing with Hegley. Poet John Hegley entertains, wielding a microphone and a book of verse. With Nigel Piper and the Popticians.
11.15 The Goldfish Bowl.
11.30 King Stupid.
12.00 News.
12.30 Late Book: The Tesseract.
12.45 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.
5.30 World News.
5.35 Shipping Forecast.
5.40 Inshore Forecast.
5.45 Prayer for the Day.
6.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.
RADIO 4 LW
(198kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service.
12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. **5.54 - 5.57** Shipping Forecast.
RADIO 5 LIVE
(693, 909kHz MW)
6.00 Breakfast.
9.00 Nicky Campbell.
12.00 The Middy News.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

IT IS always a pleasure to be able to report on success, particularly success as merited as that of 18-year-old Jovanka Houska, who last week won a bronze medal at the European Under-20 Girls Championships in Erevan, the capital of Armenia. Unbeaten until the final round, when she went down to the pre-tournament favourite Elina Danielian, she finished with 8.5/13, a point behind two of the Georgians. Indeed, Houska played no fewer than five representatives from the world's top women's chess nation (barring the Hungarian Polgar sisters), scoring a splendid 3.5/5.

Added to her recent successes at Dresden, where she amassed an extraordinary 9/10 in a match tournament between English and German women, and her Women's International Master result at the recent British Championships, this augurs very well for her England debut in the forthcoming Olympiad. Speaking of which, there have been fairly positive developments since I touched on the Olympiad last Friday. David Sedgwick, the international director of the British Chess Federation said that he would be seeking clarification from both the Foreign Office and Fide (Fédération Internationale des Echecs - the sport's governing body). A press release from Emmanuel Omuku, the Fide executive director, assures us that 'all have been bailed to stay at Chess City, Hotel Elista and Hostels based on specific requests'. The venue is conspicuous by its absence in this report: but there is now information from a very reliable source that the Olympiad's start will be delayed by a day - the final rest day being transferred to the start - so that it can be completed in time!

In this fine positional game, Houska's Polish opponent played some-

what passively in the opening and then made a definite mistake with 13 f4 after which she had a bad structure for no compensation. Houska skillfully elicited the further weakening 21 g3 but felt that she might have been more accurate thereafter. Even so, after her opponent attempted to move forward with 29 e4, Houska was able to send her reeling with the excellent 30...Rxd4! This is only a temporary sacrifice since after 31...Bf6 Black must regain the exchange. The clearing of the air highlighted White's weaknesses; and the pressure soon proved unbearable.

White: Joanna Dworakowska
Black: Jovanka Houska
Erevan 1998
Centre Counter Defence

1 e4 d5	26 Ng4 Nd7
2 exd5 Qxd5	27 b4 h5
3 Nc3 Qa5	28 Ne3 Nf6
4 d4 Nf6	29 e4 Ne4
5 Bc4 e6	30 Rdd1 Rxd4!
6 Nge2 Bf5	31 Rxd4 Bf6
7 f3 Nbd7	32 Rxe4 Bxe4
8 Ng3 Bg6	33 Bb1 Bxb1
9 Nce4 Be7	34 Rxb1 bxc4
10 Qc2 Qe7	35 Qxc4 Qd6
11 c3 Qe7	36 Re1 Rb8
12 Qe2 Qe7	37 Re2 h4
13 Rf2 Nxe4	38 g4 Rdl+
14 Nxe4 e5	39 Kf2 Rdl
15 dxc5 Nxc5	40 Qc4 Bd8
16 Nf2 Rac8	41 f5 exd5
17 Be3 a6	42 Qxd5 h3
18 a3 Rf8	43 Re2 Qd6
19 Rdd1 b5	44 Kg1 g5
20 Bb2 Bde	45 Qf3 Bb6
21 g3 Qe6	46 R2 Qe7
22 Bd4 Re8	47 Kf1 Re4
23 Rdd2 Re8	48 Nc2 Bx2
24 Rf1 Be7	49 Kx2 Qe5
25 Re1 h6	white resigns

jspeelman@compuserve.com

BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

SOUTH WAS unable to take advantage of a distinctly inferior opening lead on this deal to land what looked to be an impossible slam. North opened One Spade and South forced with Three Diamonds. Nowadays most players do not force with two-suited hands unless they have a good fit with their partner. As a result of the jump, the bidding became awkwardly high when North supported diamonds and the final contract was Six Diamonds.

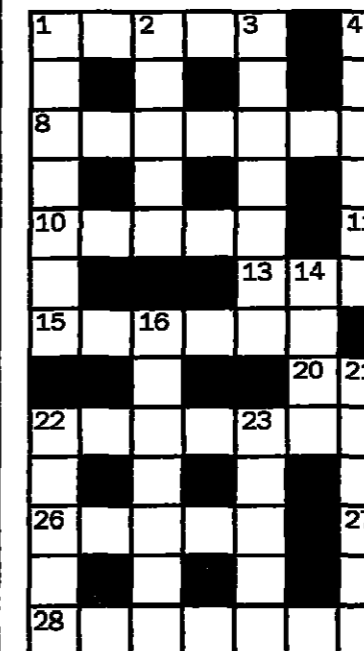
If West had led ♠A, the slam would certainly have failed, but instead he chose his singleton club (with so much in his own hand this strikes me as the height of lunacy - how could he possibly expect his partner to hold the ace?). It still did not look too promising for declarer in spite of the respite, but he found a good approach when he drew just two rounds of trumps with the king and ace and followed with three more top clubs, discarding hearts from dummy when West was unable to ruff. Then came ♠Q, covered by the king, and ducked in dummy.

Love all; dealer North	
North	
♠A 10 8 6 5 2	
♥Q 2	
♦K Q 6	
♣A 7	
West	East
♠K J 9	♠7 4
♥A 10 8 7 6 5	♥10 3
♦8 4	♦5 3 2
♣9	♣10 8 6 4 3 2
South	
♦Q 3	
♥K 4	
♦A J 10 9 7	
♠A K Q 5	

Now West was end-played - a heart lead would give South his 12th trick with ♠K, so he tried ♠9. Now, after winning with dummy's ace and ruffing a spade, the last trump could be drawn with ♠Q, and the spades were established for two heart discards. West has made a new year's resolution - if he is dealt any aces and is on lead against a slam, he will know what to do in future.

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No. 3723 Wednesday 23 September



- ACROSS**
- Hungarian composer (5)
 - Banknotes (7)
 - Of long duration (7)
 - Germanic tribesmen (5)
 - Indian prince (5)
 - Sideways (7)
 - Vegetable (4)
 - Lower of Tristan zone (6)
 - Status (4)
 - Derisive whistle (7)
 - Cake topping (5)
 - Sham (5)
 - Astronomical event (7)
 - Serious (7)
 - Wood-nymph (5)
- DOWN**
- Of few words (7)
 - Piece of ironmongery (5)
 - Defensible (7)
 - Get to grips with (6)
 - Darkness (5)
 - Fascinate (7)
 - Fibre used for ropes (5)
 - Related (4)
 - Notable man (7)
 - Crash helmet (7)
 - Intellectual (7)
 - Even if (6)
 - Thick rope (5)
 - Passage in church (5)
 - Him (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

- ACROSS:** 1 Men, 3 Shuns (Mentions), 7 Universe, 8 Help, 9 Alliteration, 10 Mexico, 12 Mahout, 14 Shocking pink, 18 Tuna, 19 Orthodox, 20 Treat, 21 Yen, DOWNTOWN: 1 Mommie, 2 Nival, 3 Shear, 4 Unhatched, 5 Salvo, 6 Groucho, 11 Incense, 12 Mighty, 13 Unknown, 15 Hound, 16 Joke, 17 Irony.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

GERMANY HAVE an enviable record in the final stages of major competitions, as England discovered to their cost in the 1996 European Championships and 1990 World Cup Finals. World Cup Legends (6pm Eurosport) celebrates their achievements, and includes footage of an unforgettable match against Holland in the 1974 World Cup Final. Danny DeVito (right) directed and stars in Matilda (5.45pm Sky Premier), an

adaptation of Roald Dahl's story about a young girl sent away to boarding school. DeVito brings a barmy, bawdy energy to the film, which managed to appeal to adults and children alike. Mara Wilson plays the eponymous mini-heroine, and Pam Ferris the fearsome headmistress. More dysfunctional silliness afterwards from The Simpsons (7pm Sky One), in an episode cryptically entitled 'Bart vs Australia'.



PETER CONCHIE

Disaster (403743), 10.00 Travel Machines (763795), 11.00 Outings (759558), 12.00 Fightin' (877182), 12.30 Driving Passions (813368), 1.00 Travel Machines (835963), 2.00 Close.
SKY 1
7.00 Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters from Beverly Hills (54120), 7.30 Game World (863502), 7.45 The Simpsons. See *Pick of the Day* (8.47), 8.30 Games World (725101), 8.30 Garfield and Friends (75029), 9.00 The New Adventures of Superman (57528), 10.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (79439), 11.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (89675), 12.00 Married with Children (88198), 12.30 MASH (755588), 12.45 The Special K Collection (816232), 1.00 Gerardo (859549), 1.45 The Special K Collection (859549), 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (827427), 2.55 The Special K Collection (859549), 3.00 Jerry Jones (493277), 3.55 The Special K Collection (444503), 4.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (89675), 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (8878), 6.00 Married with Children (88198), 6.30 Friends (4781), 7.00 The Simpsons. See *Pick of the Day* (8.47), 7.30 Real TV (88198), 8.00 Stargate SG-1 (4507), 8.30 The Outer Limits (87723), 9.00 Hollywood Sex (24833), 11.00 Friends (90385), 11.30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (88323), 12.30 Law and Order (74601), 1.30 - 2.00 Long Play (829537).
SKY SPORTS 1
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (303753), 7.45 World Wrestling Federation Live Wire (802782), 8.55 Sky Sports Centre

(550825), 8.30 Racing News (7749), 9.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (8710), 9.30 The Footbalers' Football Show (8878), 10.30 World Scottish Football (72630), 11.30 World Wrestling Federation Shotgun (8410), 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (8453), 1.00 25th Anniversary of the Superstars (2549), 1.30 World of Super League with Eddie and Steve (9473), 2.00 Full Throttle (8453), 2.30 Sports Centre (859549), 2.45 Close.
SKY SPORTS 2
7.00 Aerobics (720204), 7.30 Sports Centre (564378), 7.45 Racing News (824640), 8.45 Fastest (843694), 9.45 Sky Sports Centre (70810), 10.00 Fish TV The Ultimate Fishing Show (226859), 9.30 Fish TV Fishing Tales (887783), 10.00 Golf (887783), 10.30 Cycling (887783), 11.00 The World of Super League with Eddie and Steve (9473), 12.00 Full Throttle (8453), 12.30 Sports Centre (859549), 2.45 Close.
UK GOLD
7.00 Crossroads (75529), 7.30 Neighbours (788848), 7.55 EastEnders (880410), 8.30 The Bill (805762), 9.00

The Bill (889014), 9.30 Bergerac (728878), 10.30 The Sullivan (825336), 11.00 Dallas (731948), 11.55 Neighbours (830443), 12.25 EastEnders (828277), 1.00 All Creatures Great and Small (40202), 2.00 Dallas (880055), 2.55 The Bill (889014), 3.55 The Bill (461076), 4.55 Bergerac (825781), 5.45 EastEnders (803656), 6.30 Ants (242528), 6.00 All Creatures Great and Small (40202), 7.00 The Comedy Alternative: Don't Wait Up (889149), 7.40 The Comedy Alternative: Dads Army (855343), 8.30 The Minister (88587), 9.00 The Detective (838948), 9.40 Harriet Macbeth (837872), 10.45 Knowing Me, Knowing You, with Alan Partridge (823238), 11.25 The Bill (800559), 11.55 The Bill (208652), 12.25 Casualty (807879), 1.00 Middlemarch (876529), 2.00 Gingerbread (847267), 2.55 Shopping (865654).
LIVING
6.00 Tiny Living (854507), 9.00 Special Babes (854304), 9.30 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (787833), 10.00 Jerry Springer (828858), 10.30 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (787833), 11.00 Jerry Springer (828858), 11.30 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (787833), 12.00 Jerry Springer (828858), 12.30 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (787833), 1.00 Jerry Springer (828858), 1.30 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (787833), 2.00 Jerry Springer (828858), 2.30 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (787833), 3.00 Jerry Springer (828858), 3.30 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (787833), 4.00 Jerry Springer (828858), 4.30 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (787833), 5.00 Jerry Springer (828858), 5.30 Jerry Springer (828858), 6.00 Jerry Springer (828858), 6.30 Jerry Springer (828858), 7.00 Jerry Springer (828858), 7.30 Jerry Springer (828858), 8.00 Jerry Springer (828858), 8.30 Jerry Springer (828858), 9.00 Jerry Springer (828858), 9.30 Jerry Springer (828858), 10.00 Jerry Springer (828858), 10.30 Jerry Springer 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Channel 5



Rosemary, understandably, didn't want to be consigned there by her son-in-law (Keith Beavron, so Tully's character packed her into the sports car and sent her to Paris. At this point, I began to wonder if she wasn't a little demented herself. She would certainly be the first child in history to be surprised to find that the Fairbanks are rock-stuck-up girls who correct your French, and surprised she was, and nearly gave up.

Joseph, she talked up with a 19-year-old (the girl of my dreams), Jonathan Fairbanks, on the run in a postcard of Longmire, the girl did all the talking, and she was married. Pardon French, she said, better English, putting her in a patronizing posture of teaching a barely literate, the flight is clearly right round the flight is (she) and shamelessly thing, giving the boys of Burnhamton, while the crooks chased them.

Thomas Sutcliffe is away

You don't have to change your phone. You don't even have to change your phone number.² Just change to Cable & Wireless and save money on your phone bill compared to BT or we'll give you back double the difference.^{3*}

SHE'S GOTTA HAVE IT (8:30pm C4) But has she? This new series, obviously inspired by *Looking Good on BBC2*, has the idea of inflicting the latest fashions on a threesome of "ordinary women," with Tina Turner in the Lowry Turner role of chief giggy and consumer's friend. We start with the colour grey ("this year's black"), wasn't last year's black? That's what has to persuade these protesting Glaswegian women: one sister, one tall, one all over the place) to swap their own happily individual tastes for this monochrome ideal. As is the way those days, the show also has a challenge element, with the women given limited budgets with which to turn stylishly grey.



THE INSPECTOR PITTS MYSTERIES (8pm TV) London in the 1880s. Inspector Pitt (Edon McCarty - handsome when he remembers to close his mouth when not speaking) is the son of a gamekeeper banished to Australia for a crime he didn't commit - hence the odd's career in the police. A chipmy hit of rough, then, thrown against London society in this feature-length film, which, if it wins over the viewers, will become a series. There's a Jack the Ripper-style killer strutting ladies in the capital, Stimpson falls on a family headed by Peter Egan in mutch-doo wildsters, whose daughter (Keeley Hawes) is rather taken with our Inspector.

FILM OF THE DAY

**LATE NIGHT
CLARKSON.**
Jeremy Clarkson's
Motorworld.
Tonight at 11.30pm.

UK HORIZONS

Channel 5

- 6.00 **Bloodlines Breakfast** (65829), 9.00 News (T) (60932), 9.00 **Kilroy** (S) (T) (73739), 9.40 **Style Challenge** (S) (72210), 10.05 **Top Ten Challenge** (S) (62887), 10.30 **Daily Line** (S) (T) (488287), 10.55 News: Regional News: Weather (T) (428533).
- 11.00 **Conference Line 99**, A debate on education takes up the morning session as the Liberal Democrats continue to gather in Brighton (S) (T) (29189).
- 1.00 **News Weather** (T) (3359), 1.30 **Regional News and Weather** (415032), 1.40 **Neighbours** (S) (T) (677378), 2.05 **Breakers** (S) (261325), 2.25 **Culinary** (S) (720323), 3.45 **The Weather Show** (S) (T) (218202).
- 3.25 **Children's BBC**, King George VI (S) (627255), 3.30 **Playdays** (S) (T) (73789), 3.40 **Cruckley** (S) (T) (5) (735530), 4.40 **Get Your Own Back** (S) (T) (682461), 4.55 **The Wild House** (S) (T) (684479), 5.00 **Newsround** (S) (T) (61894), 5.10 **Blue Peter** (S) (T) (461753).
- 5.35 **Neighbours** (S) (T) (627007).
- 6.00 **News Weather** (T) (349).
- 6.30 **Regional News**, And weather (T) (101).
- 7.00 **The X-Files**, Chris Packham investigates the 'beasts of Bodmin and Emsayr'. Are they really Big cats released into the wild as a result of the 1978 Dangerous Wild Animals Act? (S) (T) (8989).
- 7.30 **Tomorrow's World**, A new Japanese robot that can simple steering, open doors, pick up objects and make simple decisions. A career in bumper cars? (S) (T) (83).
- 8.00 **Changing Rooms**, BBC's bumper surprise hit - but they're out of programme. Home the team of last year's entire series Laurence 'X' Thompson (T) (8356), Bowen brings up end to Docklands (S) (T) (6356).
- 8.30 **The National Lottery Dreamworld**, Uthra Johnson brings a *Jim F* to the element to the spinning balls show (S) (T) (720).
- 9.00 **News Regional News Weather** (T) (4702).
- 9.30 **The View of Dibley**, Dawn French female reader becomes a celebrity after doing *Prize* (T) (6837), the Terry Wogan after (S) (T) (6837).
- 10.00 **Smith and Jones**, Mai and Giffi coal through another series - tonight trying to find out whether their friend Frank, played by Alan Armstrong, is wearing a toupee (S) (T) (4828).
- 10.35 **Highway**, Shattered (Nigel Pearson 1991 US), Hitchcockian thriller with Tom Berenger walking from a car crash with animals and a suspiciously unrealised wife, Gail Storch. See *Run of the Day*, below (S) (758330).
- 12.05 **FILE**, A Climate for Killing (US Carsons 1990 US), This thriller has been chopped for violence and nudity, which doesn't leave a great deal - some nice Arizona scenery, perhaps, as big-city cop Shortt Bauer is sent to help smalltown cop John Black solve a gruesome murder in the desert (284328).
- 1.30 **Johns BBC News 24** (656148), To Gam.
- 7.00 **Children's BBC**, Tellytubbies (115030), 7.25 **Survivor** Adventures (655487), 7.45 **The Really Wild Show** (S) (8198), 8.15 **Noah's Island** (465502), 8.35 **King Green-ingers** (S) (4438), 8.45 **Herry and the Hendernons** (622897), 9.10 **Where? Where? Where? Why?** (622895), 9.25 **Teaching** (S) (635255), 9.45 **Whod and Pictures** (947101), 10.00 **Teletubbies** (69791), 10.30 **Numberline** (635578), 10.45 **Cats Eat** (662333), 11.00 **Around Scotland** (S) (758830), 11.50 **The Geography Programme** (639146), 11.45 **Science in Action** (637884), 12.00 **Teaching Today** (S) (4418).
- 12.30 **Working Lunch** (63791), 1.00 **Joshua Jones** (S) (675207), 1.10 **The Little Pole Bear** (S) (623355), 1.15 **The Countrywide Hour** (S) (464434), 2.15 **News: Regional News: Weather** (T) (628433).
- 2.20 **Conference Line 99**, The Lib Dems debate Europe (S) (T) (245876).
- 3.35 **News Weather** (630304), 4.00 **Change That** (S) (T) (63378), 4.25 **Racey, Smokey, Cook** (632188), 4.55 **Either** (S) (670422), 5.30 **Today's Day** (S) (T) (676).
- 6.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation**, Tobi's mother fights to stop her lover from participating in the final battle mandated by society (S) (T) (623782).
- 6.45 **Conference Talk 99**, Andrew Neil presents a round-up of the day's events from the Liberal Democrat conference at Brighton, and chairs a live phone-in with various politicians, including Marjorie Campbell, MP for Fife North East (S) (T) (635120).
- 7.30 **Black Britain**, Reports on the disappearance of 12 young female asylum-seekers from social services homes in Sussex (S) (T) (25).
- 8.00 **University Challenge**, Oxford's Harrie Wardropper College take on Cambridge's Selwyn College (S) (6255).
- 8.30 **Two Fat Ladies**, The ladies prepare a meal for banquets, banquets and pupils at Lincoln's Inn, including a desert of 'strawberry breasts' (S) (T) (5782).
- 9.00 **Living with the Enemy**, Old Labour stalwart Paul Davidson spends a week with modernised New Labour on night up in the 'cave' for contacts scandal (S) (2304).
- 9.30 **Close Up**, James Dean Bradley, Nicky Wire and Sean Moore talk about the history of the Manic Street Preachers. They discuss their motivations, the phenomenal success of *Everything Must Go*, their fourth album, and the impact of the disappearance of founding member, Ricky Edwards (S) (61846).
- 10.30 **Jonathan Miller on Reflection** (S) (T) (732748).
- 10.30 **Newsnight**, With Gordon Brewer (S) (81838).
- 11.20 **Rebenders of the Human Body**, Concludes with 18th-century vet Horace Fragonard, who is said to have exhumed the body of his deceased girlfriend, preserved it and skinned it (S) (62304).
- 12.00 **Grace under Fire** (33453), 12.30 **BBC Learning Zone**, Open University: Shaping Up (68415), 1.00 **Open University** (2358), 1.30 **What You Never Know about Sex** (4001), 2.00 **Deception Plus 1 - 2** (62637), 5.00 **HCN Nursing Update** (744724), To 645ent.
- 6.00 **CATV** (635167).
- 9.25 **Teletubbies** (S) (628828), 10.15 **The Morning** (T) (645212), 10.40 **Top Show** (441217), 12.30 **News: Weather** (T) (6771), 1.00 **London Today** (T) (3255), 1.30 **The Big Day** (S) (6771), 1.40 **Today** (T) (62626), 2.15 **Home and Away** (S) (T) (6456), 2.45 **Dale** (Supermarket Sweep) (S) (62627), 3.25 **TN News Headlines** (T) (627456), 3.40 **London Today** (T) (625052).
- 3.25 **Children's ITV: Wizards** (S) (625676), 3.35 **The Super Worms** (S) (467558), 3.45 **The Animal Shelf** (S) (467102), 4.00 **Rupert** (S) (637507), 4.25 **The Potholes** (S) (T) (670236), 4.40 **Ward for It** (S) (672233).
- 5.10 **Home and Away** (S) (T) (9440385).
- 5.40 **News Weather** (T) (984146).
- 6.00 **London Tonight**, Regional news update for the capital and the South-East, including a local weather bulletin (T) (217).
- 6.30 **London Bridge**, Capital sea. Things get out of hand when the pressure at the SSE1 grand opening, but Kim is speechless when Mark turns up (S) (687).
- 7.00 **Emmerdale**, The Dingles fight back against their accusers, and Rachel and Graham get closer at the village fun (S) (T) (4033).
- 7.30 **Coronation Street**, Ken - who seems to be forever getting into fights with Sally's family men these days - and Greg square up for football (T) (75).
- 8.00 **CRIME**, The Inspector's mid-mystery. Adaptation of Anne Perry's murder-mystery novels, set in Victorian London. See *Drama of the Day*, below (S) (T) (6895).
- 10.00 **News Weather** (T) (62323).
- 10.30 **London Tonight** (T) (640235).
- 10.40 **The Thoughts of Chairman Alf**, Scripted by the late Johnny Speight, this new six-part series has Warren Mitchell re-inhabiting the most famous role, as Alf Garnett reflects on the ills of modern Britain (509878).
- 11.00 **Cartoon Sport**, Whatington Cup highlights as Spurs play Brentford and Southampton face Fulham (74552).
- 12.40 **FILE**, The Sergeant (John Flynn 1988 US), Tough US Army sergeant Rod Sledge is forced to face his homosexuality in post-war France. Cue method-acting madness and a deadly duel script (456231).
- 2.40 **One Summer in Brontë Country** (630044), 3.05 **Trisha** (56817), 3.50 **Cybernet** (623825), To 45ent.
- 6.00 **Sesame Street** (63236), 7.00 **The Big Breakfast** (S) (T) (29410).
- 9.00 **Channel 4 Schools**, Science for Today (19472), 9.30 **Pat-a-Tat** (944014), 9.45 **Book Box** (643287), 10.00 **Steps Two Science** (900726), 10.15 **Al About Us** (689749), 10.30 **Top En France** (643635), 10.40 **Stop Look Listen** (635789), 11.00 **First Edition V** (635122), 11.15 **Breakfast** (630549).
- 11.30 **Moving People** (8955), 12.00 **Sesame Street** (63236), 12.30 **Dream of Jeanie** (6149), 1.00 **Watercolor Challenge** (T) (3887).
- 1.30 **FILE**, Pink Stings and Beating Wax (Robert Harris 1955 UK), Crime melodrama set in the Brighton of the 1950s, when a young woman is accused of the murder. P.D. Jackson's *Beating Wax* features her husband before being charged with murder-class Charles Warren joins by implicating the son, Gordon Jackson (63